



INSIDE CHESS

20

U.S.
Volume 5,
October 12,

\$3.00
Issue 20
1992

The Best in Chess Every Two Weeks



Fischer Leads 5-2 at the Break

Plus....

A Grunfeld Theoretical by Etacnik

A Remembrance of Tal

INSIDE CHESS

is a subsidiary of ICE, Inc.

European Office: Postbus 59064, NL-1040 KB Amsterdam

October 12, 1992

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Inside Chess would like to express its gratitude to the following companies and individuals who have helped make Inside Chess a success. New In Chess; USA TODAY Sports Network; Chess Informant, for permission to use opening codes; and to DBChess V2.0 by Brad Mernil.

Inside Chess Rates: US – 6 months \$25; 1 year \$45; 2 years \$80; foreign – 6 months \$32; 1 year \$59; 2 years \$109. Issues to Canada and Mexico sent first-class; other countries by I.S.A.I. Make check payable to: I.C.E., Inc., P.O. Box 19457, Seattle, WA 98109. Subscription calls: 1-800-26-CHESS, other calls: (206) 325-1952. Fax: (206) 325-9838 or I.C.E. P.O. Box 59064, 1040 KB Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Tel: 011 (31) (20) 686-3127, Fax 684-9849.

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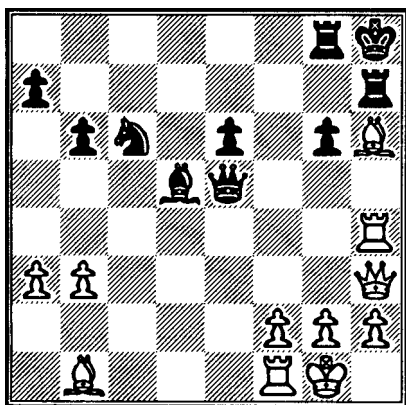
Inside Chess is published bi-weekly by International Chess Enterprises, Inc., 120 Bellevue E., Seattle, WA 98102. Second-class postage paid at Seattle, WA. POSTMASTER: send address changes to Inside Chess, I.C.E., Inc., P.O. Box 19457, Seattle, WA 98109.

Letters to the Editor

Better Yet . . .

Dear Editor,

It might interest you to know that in Sherzer's notes on the game I. Ivanov-Panchenko (*Inside Chess*, Issue 11, page 19), both he and Ivanov overlooked a pretty win on move 30.



Instead of playing 30.b4 Igor should have played 30.Bg5!, winning almost at once. The main lines are: 30...Qg7 31.Bf6; 30...Rg7 31.Bxg6; and 30...Rxh4 31.Qxh4 + Kg7 32.Qh6 + Kf7 33.Qh7 +, when 34.Bxg6 + wins on any interposition.

Sincerely,
Arnold Denker

No Running Rapids

Dear Editor,

Inside Chess remains on the whole a pleasure to read. As long as you are expressing an interest in the ideas and preferences of readers, let me cast my vote. First, I think that the *Inside News* section is the most useful of all. Many of the pieces of news that appear there (including brief tournament reports) I never see elsewhere. Although I should not mind seeing some of the briefer reports expanded, as a source of information I do

not know that section's equal.

By contrast, I obviously attach less value to the results of a rapid chess event than the home of FIDE World Rapid Chess does. Had it not been for the connection between *Inside Chess* and the Rapid Chess organization, I should have found it incredible that most of an issue is devoted to games that suffer in quality from the limited time available to the players. I can understand giving the results of the tournament and a couple of illustrative games. As a reader, however, I should much rather have seen more games from the Olympiad, which would have been much more instructive. Rapid and blitz chess may be fun to play, but I don't see how the games from tournaments played under those time controls are as useful or beautiful as those played under slower controls. (Of course, there are those players who turn even slower controls into one-sided blitz games by their misuse of the clock.) In any case, keep up the good work of diffusing news not otherwise available and *Inside Chess* will remain irreplaceable.

With best wishes,
Thomas Drucker

Dear Mr. Drucker,

Thank you for the feedback. Your sentiments regarding the quality of rapid chess are certainly understandable. Please note, however, that S.W.I.F.T. was the last major GMA event and therefore commanded more special attention than otherwise. Inside Chess publishes some twenty-five issues a year, and it is our general policy to furnish a wide variety of material to our readers. This includes everything from Fischer-Spassky II, with Yaz on the scene, to rapid chess events (occasionally) and theoretical articles such as Ftacnik's piece on the Grunfeld this issue and an upcoming

discussion of the Dragon by Margeir Petursson. Sometimes an issue is heavily weighted in one direction, as was the case with the S.W.I.F.T. issue. But overall we try to strike an informative balance in our coverage. — The Editors

Pyramid Correction

Dear Yasser:

Prior to any niggling complaints, I would like to pay you a very high compliment. The two editorials published in *Inside Chess* [Issue 16] on Dearborn and on the Fischer match were both interesting and very well written. In fact, I xeroxed the Dearborn editorial and passed it out to the delegates. (The resolution of the presidential expense problem was unsatisfactory to a majority of the Policy Board, but the delegates were highly anxious to put the unpleasant matter behind them.)

The only corrective which I wish to offer to your Dearborn editorial is your inaccurate implication that Steve Doyle and Gary Sperling went on a "junket" to the pyramids at U.S.C.F. expense. I was on the Policy Board at the time the Dubai trip was approved and it is a fact that both Doyle and Sperling paid for the side trip to Cairo completely out of their own pockets.

One may question the wisdom and/or the effectiveness of sending both to those FIDE meetings. But there can be no question of the fact that the Policy Board preapproved all the expenses for that trip and was given a full accounting afterward. I invite you to verify this with then executive director Dullea or any other member of the 1986 Policy Board. As it stands, it is grossly unfair to Steve and Gary to in any way compare their situation with this summer's expense problem.

As always, I enjoy *Inside Chess* as much or more than any of the numerous chess publications I receive and am about to renew for another rich and wonderful two years.

Sincerely,
Jerry Hanken
USCF Life Master
USCF Policy Board Member

Fischer-Spassky II

Sveti Stefan 1992

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total Wins
GM Bobby Fischer	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	5
GM Boris Spassky	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	2

by GM Yasser Seirawan

Friday, September 11

Awoke late. Disaster narrowly averted—I nearly missed breakfast. Jet lag is receding. Today was a free day, but it didn't feel like it. A fax from Seattle gave me a start. It seems part of yesterday's 25-page fax didn't make it. I played detective and sent what I hoped was the missing piece.

Baja and Stefan picked me up and we drove to Cetinje for a team competition. The drive up into the Montenegrin mountains was inspiring. At the match I faced a foe from my World Junior days, GM Sergey Dolmatov. We met at Graz in 1978. Today we played a sharp draw. I've really been enjoying these team competitions between clubs.

Saturday, September 12

Game day! We made a walking tour of the medieval 'or ressi y o' ~u'va, glorious in its pristine beauty. Walking the cobblestone streets invokes the historic struggle of the Balkan peoples. It's ironic that we are touring this monument to past struggles while modern Yugoslavia is being torn apart.

We catch a taxi-boat from Budva to Sveti Stefan and speak English only after Baja has negotiated a cheap fare. The driver gives me an amused smile. We pass mile after mile of expansive, crowded beaches. Arriving in Sveti Stefan, I feel like Alice in Wonderland. 100 kilometers away the country is gripped by anarchy; here people are frolicking in the surf! What to do but join them? Bobby walks by our beach. Game Seven will soon begin. Back to chess!

Game Seven

Fischer is behind two games to one and his grip on the World Championship that he feels is his is loosening. Bobby landed a haymaker in Game One with White, but since then it's been all downhill for him:

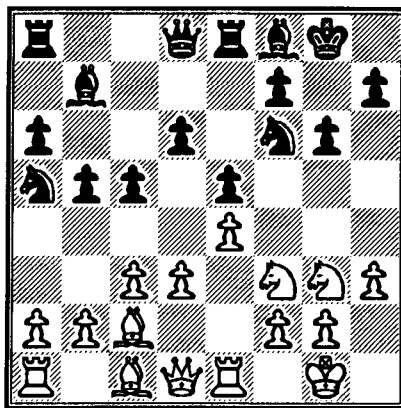
in the last two games, disaster in Game Five and a difficult save in Game Six. Boris has reason to be happy with his classical defense to the Ruy Lopez and will stick with it for the duration of the match, if he can. Bobby has got to find a new way to deal with it.

RL 19.1 Ruy Lopez C90
GM Bobby Fischer
GM Boris Spassky
Sveti Stefan (7) 1992

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 O-O 9.d3!?

Bobby is the first to blink, deviating from the main lines of the Ruy. The text is quite modest in that White doesn't go for full central control, but instead aims for a slow migration of pieces to the kingside. This plan was the favorite of Richard Teichmann (1868-1925).

9...Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.Nbd2 Re8 12.h3 Bf8 13.Nf1 B' 7 14.Ng3 g6



So far standard theory, with the assessment that the position is roughly balanced. White will play for pawn-breaks with d3-d4 and f2-f4, while Black goes for ...d6-d5. Bobby will have to show something original to gain the upper hand.

15.Bg5 h6 16.Bd2

It might seem more natural to play 16.Be3 and reserve the d2-square for the Queen, but then on 16...d5! the Bishop on

e3 becomes a target.

16...d5?!

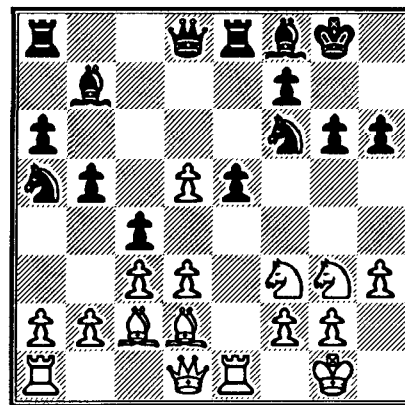
This standard reaction comes as a surprise, because it is mistimed. The solid 16...Nc6, preparing ...d6-d5, offers sound equality.

17.exd5

Underscoring the problem behind Spassky's last move. Black's e5-pawn is targeted for termination. The position, however, still contains a lot of tricks.

17...c4!

I don't know if Boris anticipated this move when choosing 16...d5, but in any case, it's quite necessary. After 17...Qxd5 18.c4! (hitting the a5-Knight) 18...bxc4 (18...Qd8 19.Nxe5 wins a pawn free and clear) 19.Bxa5 cxd3 20.Bxd3 e4 21.Bc3 eventually wins a piece. The text rules out the above. Black intends to recapture the d5-pawn at his leisure.

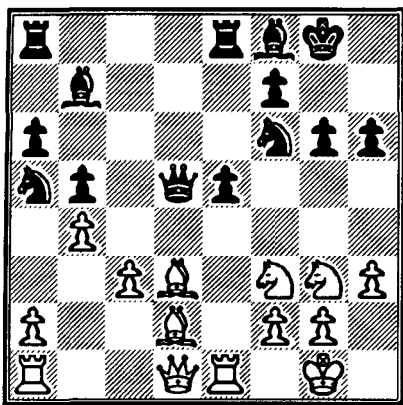


18.b4!

Blow for blow. Only by this can White gain an advantage. It gives White a material plus.

18...cxd3 19.Bxd3?! Qxd5?!

Falling victim to a devilish trick. Black had to kiss his pawn goodbye: 19...Nc4 20.Bxc4 bxc4 21.Nxe5 Qxd5 22.Nf3 and White has won a pawn. In small compensation, Black has the two Bishops. White has a clear advantage. The text gives Black a lost game.



20.Be4!

A killing shot. Boris clearly missed this one. The reasonable 20.Ne4 allows ...Nd7, when Black is OK. The text gets the d3-Bishop out of capture, while generating threats.

20...Nxe4

If 20...Qc4 21.Qb1! (Fischer) 21...Nc6 22.Bxg6 fxc6 23.Qxg6 + Bg7 24.Nf5 wins. Other moves just lose a piece to b4xa5.

21.Nxe4

The point is clear. Black faces Ne4-f6+ and bxa5. Black loses a piece.

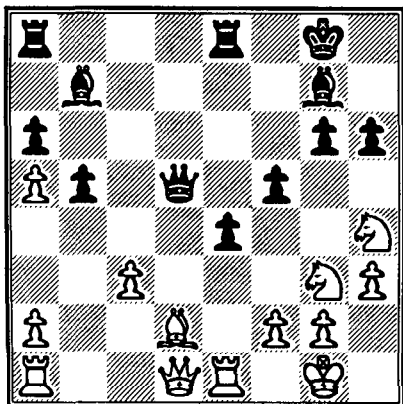
21...Bg7

Worse is 21...Re6? 22.bxa5 f5 23.Ng3 e4 24.Nd4 e3 25.f3 and the e6-Rook is a target.

22.bxa5 f5 23.Ng3!?

Here, while GMs Gligoric and Velimirovic contended that 23.c4!? bxc4 24.NxQx5 wins, Spassky and Fischer doubt, but then 24...Qf7! keeps the game quite lively. For example, 25.Be3 Rad8 26.c1e4 27.Nh2 Rd3 give Black terrific compensation.

23...e4 24.Nh4



24...Bf6?

This accelerates Spassky's defeat. Boris consistently fails to make the most of his lot. Forced was 24...Rad8 25.Be3 Qf7! The Knight on h4 is simply

miserable. A line might run 26.Qc1 Rd3 27.Ne2 g5, when Black regains his piece. Another plausible line is 24...Rad8 25.Re2 Bxc3 26.Nxg6 Bxd2! with sharp play. Settling for 25.Bxh6 Bxh6 26.Nxg6 f4 isn't what White wants.

So back to 4...a8 5.e7 f7 6...1...6, now White has some chances of coordinating his wayward pieces. This whole series of lines had the assembled corps of GMs — Tshernikovsky, Dolmatov, Barlov, Popovic, Gligoric, Velimirovic, Ivanovic and others — second-guessing Black's moves beginning with 16...d5. The general feeling was that the lines, while varied and complex, favored White. Spassky's choice lands him by force into an ending two pawns down. In his heyday Boris sacrificed his pieces with abandon. In his old age he's anxious to win them back! It is this move that is really the losing move.

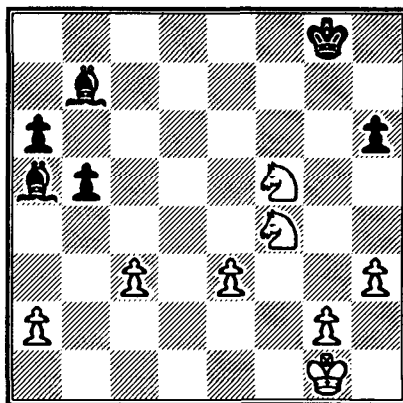
25.Nxg6 e3 26.Nf4 Qxd2

Black has won back his piece and jumps into a lost ending.

27.Rxe3 Qxd1 + 28.Rxd1 Rxe3 29.fxe3 Rd8

A sad necessity. If Black fails to challenge the d-file, White will easily weave checkmate based on 29...Bxc3 30.Nxf5 Bxa5 31.Rd7 Be4 32.Nxh6 +, winning.

.R + . f



32.Nd5?

A very strange mistake. Boris has forced Bobby into a winning ending which he promptly misplays. After 32.Ne7 + Kf7 33.Ned5 the Knights dominate Black's Bishops and King. Given time, White moves e3-e4 and Kg1-f2-g3-h4 is decisive. Black has to play 33...Bxd5 34.Nxd5 Ke6 35.Nb4 Bb6 36.Nxa6 Bxe3 + 37.Kf1 and resigns.

32...Kf8!

Boris makes White's task as difficult as possible.

33.e4

White gives back a pawn to rob Black of one of his Bishops. This was the clearest path. Difficulties lie in 33.Nb4 Bb6, when Black's Bishops are coordinating quite well.

...x5...ex5 h5...5...

Can r lizing h King.

35...Bxc3 36.Ke3 Kf7 37.Kd3

Black's remaining hopes are on the queenside. The text nips this in the bud with gain of tempo.

...Bb2

If 37...b4 38.Kc4 is easy, since 38...a5 39.Kb5 ends all counterplay.

38.g4

Time to queen a lady.

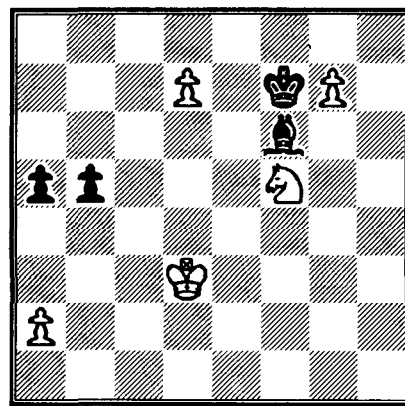
38...hxg4 39.hxg4 Kf6 40.d6 Ke6 41.g5!

An artistic finish. The simple point is that 41...Kxf5 42.d7 is a girl. Chasing the Bishop to b2 is paying dividends.

41...a5 42.g6 Bf6 43.g7 Kf7

Since 43...Bxg7 44.Nxg7 + Kxd6 44.Kd4 is a simple technical win.

44.d7 1-0



Black faces 44...b4 45.Nd6 + Kxg7 46.Ne8 + and Nxf6. Also, 44...Bd8 45.Nd6 + Kxg7 46.Nb7 Bc7 47.d7 = Q wins.

It was a very uneven and poorly played game, but at least Bobby had the pleasure of leveling the score. The theoretical novelty of the day was the glass barrier that was inserted in the doorway through which the spectators watch the players. Apparently even the faintest noise is too much for Bobby. Well, at least he keeps the carpenter working.

Controversy from Camp Kamp... In interviews he has said that the match being between "two has-beens." He has also raised the possibility that the match is "fixed." Further, Game One was "bad," but Games Three, Four and Five were "good." Such comments are guaran-

teed to raise Fischer's hackles and fan the flames for a possible match. At present Bobby has to regain the form he showed in Game One to have any chance against Gazza.

Fischer and Spassky after the seventh game:

Dukelic: Mr. Fischer, are you satisfied with your play today?

Fischer: Yes, overall I think I played pretty well. He had a reasonably good opening, then he made a very bad mistake, blunder.

Spassky: You mean ...d5.

Fischer: Yes, this is a losing move.

Spassky: Maybe... Yes, it looks like a losing move. Maybe I could have played better, because I had another way to get compensation.

Fischer: I didn't see it.

Spassky: You didn't see it. I mean that after Ne4, then ...Qc4.

Fischer: That's finished.

Spassky: I mean, after Be4, ...Qc4, because my Knight takes from a5 to b7.

Fischer: What are you talking about?

Spassky: When you played Be4 and I took with my Knight, I had a better move, ...Qc4.

Fischer: Qb1. It's a killer.

Spassky: Oh.

Dukelic: Thank you very much.

Following the game, Yvette and I had dinner with Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam from *New in Chess*. Dirk had come for a few days visit. His most important mission, however, was not reporting. Fischer had requested his office in Holland to send the NICBASE program and database for use during the match. NIC was pleased to honor the request and didn't trust the postal system, so Dirk had an audience with Bobby when he delivered the goods.

Dirk had to overcome feelings of panic while the game files were being successfully accessed. He then engaged the great man in a little conversation. It seems Bobby is carrying on a lot of private wars these days with publishers, the U.S. Government, the Soviets (Russians) and so on. There was little news that was positive.

I found myself wondering whether this match was a one-shot affair, Bobby's last appearance. He had won today. If he

wins the match, does he take his millions and his crown and go home? Why risk defeat again? But then, why this match in the first place? Bobby has disdained financial offers for 20 years. What motivates him? Dirk's brief encounter offered no clues.

Sunday, September 13

Spent the afternoon working on a book on the Caro-Kann. Sveti Stefan is ideal for chess labors.

KI 33.6 King's Indian Samisch E84

GM Boris Spassky
GM Bobby Fischer

Sveti Stefan (8) 1992

Now tied, the match enters a new stage. Taking excessive risks invites defeat. Boris has scored in Game Four with White and narrowly missed winning Game Six. Bobby needs a confidence building performance as Black today.

1.d4 Nf6!

After two bad experiences in the Queen's Gambit Accepted, Bobby returns to his beloved King's Indian.

2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7

The Grunfeld Defense, another Fischer favorite, waits in the wings.

4.e4 d6 5.f3

Replaying the Samisch of Game Two, where Boris gained an opening edge.

5...O-O

Avoiding 5...c5 as in Game Two. Another favored Fischer treatment is 5...e5, getting a more classical K.I.D. game.

6.Be3 Nc6!?

A sharp decision. Bobby enters the most complicated of modern lines in the Samisch. Boris has a lot of experience in these lines.

7.Nge2 a6 8.Qd2 Rb8

A defining moment. White gears up for a kingside attack, Black coils to strike on the queenside.

9.h4

Bobby had to face 9.Nc1 against Petrosian in Curacao 1962. That was Bobby's only experience in this line. White's plan is self-evident — h4-h5, Be3-h6 and mate!

9...h5

This weakening of the kingside is probably necessary.

10.Bh6 e5 11.Bxg7

More common is 11.O-O-O b5,

transposing into the main theoretical discussions.

11...Kxg7 12.d5

Boris opts for a positional approach rather than keeping the tension in the position with 12.O-O-O.

12...Ne7 13.Ng3

This seems to be an awkward square for the Knight. Boris, however, has some concrete attacking plans based on Ng3-f5+. Another approach is 13.O-O-O!?, intending Kb1-c1 and Ne2-c1-b3.

13...c6

A critical decision, as Black's d6-pawn is now exposed to attack. But without this move, it is difficult for Black to generate counterplay.

14.dxc6 Nxc6

A surprising recapture. The press-room GMs had concentrated on 14...bxc6 (playing for ...d6-d5) 15.O-O-O Qb6 16.Na4 Qb4 17.Qxb4 Rxb4 18.b3 d5, when Black is fine. Bobby may have objected to the pawn sacrifice 14...bxc6 15.O-O-O Qb6 16.c5!? dxc5 (16...Qxc5 17.Qxd6) 17.Na4 Qb4 18.Qxb4!? (18.Qc2!?) cxb4 19.Bc4, when White has good piece control. A difficult decision, since now White has a solid grip on the d5-square. In return, Black has a measure of control over White's d4-square.

15.O-O-O Be6!

Offering the d6-pawn as bait.

16.Kb1!

Declining the bait, since 16.Qxd6 Qb6 (16...Qa5!?) 17.Qd2 Nd4 offers excellent compensation for the pawn.

16...Ne8

Sidestepping 16...Qa5? 17.Nf5+, one of White's tricks in the position.

17.Nd5?!

White needlessly rushes to this outpost. Quiet development by 17.Bd3 was best.

17...b5 18.Ne3!?

Boris is fixated on the plan of Nf5+. Controlling the c-file with 18.Rc1! gives White an advantage.

18...Rh8!

A wonderful preventive move. Black stops the sacrificial idea Ng3xh5+. Another, deeper point is that it will be difficult to play g2-g4, since the h4-pawn will be *en prise*.

19.Rc1 Qb6 20.Bd3

White is back on track. The excursion Nc3-d5-e3 lost a little time, but no damage was done.

20...Nd4 21.Nd5 Qa7

Very cautious. Bobby doesn't allow 21...Bxd5 22.cxd5 Nf6 23.Nf5+ Nxf5 24.exf5 with the attack.

22.Nf1!

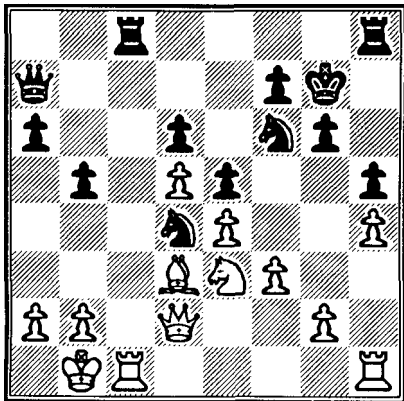
The start of an impressive strategical plan. Boris allows Black to keep the magnificent d4-Knight. He will play "around" the d4-Knight, weaving a kingside attack. In any case, 22.Ne2 Bxd5 23.cxd5 Nf6 offers Black no problems.

22...Nf6!

Well played. Black's King isn't vulnerable after 23.N... Kxf6, as it immediately retreats by ...Kf6-g7.

23.Nfe3 Bxd5 24.cxd5 Rbc8

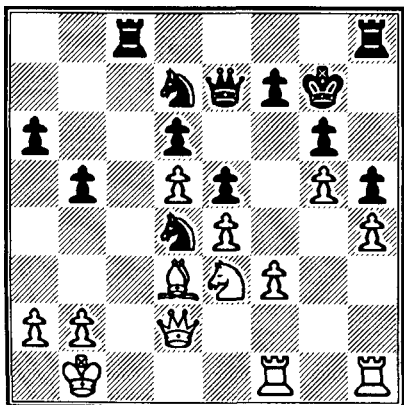
With hindsight, 24...Nd7 25.Rcf1 Nc5 26.g4 Qe7 27.g5 f6 was the better way to control White's kingside attack.



25.Rcf1!

A powerful shift. This seemed to catch Bobby by surprise. The sudden concentration of White's forces is threatening indeed! Reasoned defense is required; Black mustn't panic.

25...Qe7 26.g4 Nd7 27.g5



27...Kf8??

Bobby panics! White plans f3-f4, and Black reacts entirely in the wrong way. He flees the kingside. Instead, he should be refortifying the kingside by 27...Rcf8!

in order to play 28.f4!? exf4 29.Rxf4 Qe5 30.Rhf1 f6 and the outcome would be unclear. The text disconnects the Rooks and simply loses time.

28.Rf2!

Beautiful, restrained play. Black's time-losing King maneuver means White can better reposition his pieces for the attack. In particular, the d3-Bishop needs to play a role.

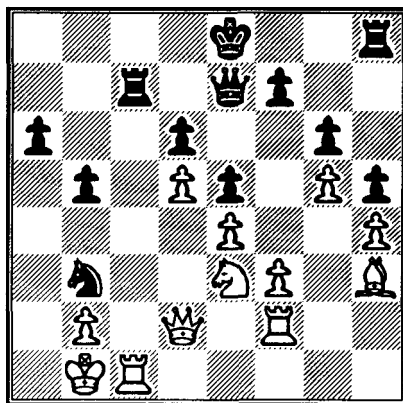
28...Ke8?! 29.Bf1 Nc5 30.Bh3!?

Not entirely needed. White has a convincing advantage with 29.Bg2! Rf8 30.f4 exf4 31.Rxf4 Qe5 32.Rhf1 with pressure everywhere.

30...Rc7 31.Rc1

Immediately after the game this was thought to be a horrible oversight.

31...Ncb3 32.axb3 Nxb3



33.Rc??

Following Game Eight remarkable improvements for Spassky were found by both carbon-based (human) and silicon-based (computer) intelligences. First GM Viktor Kupreichik found 33.Qc2 Rxc2 34.Rfxc2 Nxc1 35.Rc8+ Qd8 36.Rxd8+!? Kxd8 37.Kxc1 Rf8! 38.Kd1 f6 39.gxf6 Rxf6 40.Ke2. Further analysis indicated that after 40...Rf7, intending an eventual push on the queenside in connection with ...Rf7-c7, ...Kd8-e7-f6 and ...g6-g5, Black is better.

Then word arrived in Sveti Stefan that Deep Thought had found 33.Qc3! Rxc3 34.Rxc3 Nc5 35.b4 Nb7 36.Rfc2! Nd8 37.Rc7 Qf8 38. Rc8 followed by R2c7 as winning for White!

The commercially available Chess-Machine agreed that taking White's Queen is bad for Black and gave: 33.Qc3! Nxc1 34.Qa3, intending Ne3-c2 trapping Black's Knight. Black has to play 34...b4 35.Qa4+ Kf8 36.Bf1 f6 37.Nc4 fxf5 38.Kxc1 gxf4 39.Qxb4 Kg7—unclear! One thing that is not

unclear is that 31.Rc1 was not the loser, 33.Rc6? was the culprit.

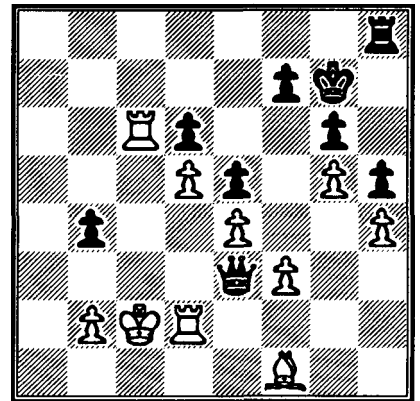
33...Nxd2+ 34.Rxd2 Kf8 35.Rxa6?

The final mistake. Necessary was 35.Rdc2 Ra7 36.Rb6 Kg7 37.Rcc6 Rd8 and White will lose, but with better chances to resist. The text opens the a-file for Black.

35...Ra7 36.Rc6 Kg7 37.Bf1 Ra1+!

This *petite* combination ends all resistance.

38.Kxa1 Qa7+ 39.Kb1 Qxe3 40.Kc2 b4 0-1



Monday, September 14

A most enjoyable day. The atmosphere was electric as preparations were made for the press conference. Both Bobby and Boris were scheduled to answer written questions. The conference room was packed by 12:30 pm. Boris was the first to arrive. I was in the front row and when Boris spotted me he came over to say hello and we ended up analyzing Game Eight. Viktor Kupreichik had found a fantastic possibility in 33.Qc2! which we analyzed out to an inferior ending for White.

When Bobby entered the room, the energy level seemed to go up a couple of notches. As he spoke, I listened intently to each word and studied his body language. Fischer was calm, composed and seemed to relish the press conference, not at all the camera-shy type he is made out to be. His answers were direct and to the point and he didn't shy away from any of the questions. One thing that doesn't come through in the transcripts of the press conference is the humor. There was a lot of friendly banter and laughter. On the other hand, Bobby's views on the USCF were expressed quite vehemently, mere

words on paper don't do justice to his delivery.

Host: Please pass to the table the written questions for Mr. Fischer and Mr. Spassky. Mr. Fischer is now reading the questions.

Questions for Mr. Spassky:
Yasser Seirawan, *Inside Chess*

Boris, yesterday you told me you had a fantastic move: 33.Qc2 after 32...Nxb3. Remarkable, you could have saved the Game [8].

Probably yes, that's an information from Yuri Balashov, who told me this morning about this move. But anyway, during the game, when I blundered after Rc1, I immediately realized that I made a blunder. Bobby has a very good killer's instinct. If he gets such a chance, he immediately cashes. That's my disadvantage comparing to Bobby. I was completely finished after 31...Nb3, there was no chance to survive.

Leontxo Garcia, *El Pais (Spain)*

What kind of punishment or bad treatment did you receive in the Soviet Union after you were defeated by Mr. Fischer in 1972?

That's a good question. I think that the strongest sanction from the Soviet Sports Committee after the match was that I was forbidden to play for nine months in international tournaments. Normally after a match the loser has fantastic energy to fight and prove something. We made very good opening preparations and general preparations before Reykjavik. Eventually, I got sick, I was in a very big depression after that.

Melcev Tivi, *BIGZ Duga, Prakticna zena*

Is it more difficult for you to play with Mr. Fischer at the beginning of the match or now? Do you have any complaints about your stay in Sveti Stefan?

I would like to give some explanation of my psychological condition. Before the match and during the match I got an impression that Bobby was somehow handicapped, not me, because Bobby is

the World Champion and he has to prove something.

But I think I made a mistake, because somehow I am also handicapped. First of all, from the emotional point of view, because even now I don't believe that I am playing this match against Bobby. Somehow I am still not in the real, but in the surrealistic, world. And if one day some human beings from Mars land in Sveti Stefan, I won't be surprised.

But now I think that Bobby's two losses brought me back to reality. I realized that the beginning of the match is over and that we are in the middlegame of the match. This means that I am going to calm myself and to look at the world realistically. In the beginning it was quite difficult for me to play against Bobby, but in the last few games I was not playing against Bobby, but against myself. So this is the difference for me. And I realized that Bobby, when he wins the game, immediately gets self-confidence, because his problem in the beginning was the lack of self-confidence. Now he is getting better and better.

Questions for Mr. Fischer:

Leontxo Garcia, *El Pais*

1. How do you evaluate your capacity of concentration during the match?

I think I'm concentrating well enough.

2. Is the visor you are using a help to be more concentrated?

Yes, you could say that. Also it's for keeping more privacy for your eyes, so your opponent can't see what you are looking at.

3. Do you use computers for your training? How?

I have a computer and I use it mainly as a file of games, Boris' games and other games. But I don't play against it. I am using it just for rapidly reviewing games.

4. Would you play in a chess Olympiad with the USA team right now? If not, why?

I don't have too much interest in tournament chess, just match chess.

Dragan Popadic, *Radio Montenegro*

1. I think that the quality of games is pretty high, but that there are too many mistakes. Would you agree?

No, I wouldn't agree.

2. Does your temper interfere with your assessing the position objectively?

No.

3. Do you want to get more than the position offers?

I just want to get as much as I can get from the position.

4. Was the position in the sixth game completely winning for Spassky?

What was the sixth game? Would someone remind me?

Spassky: Sixth game was the ending when I got a pawn more and Rook to c7.

Fischer: Ah, the Queen's Gambit Accepted. Was the position in the sixth game completely winning for Spassky? Probably. (Laughing) I would say surely, with correct play. At one point, anyway.

Karapetyan Jagik, *Trud-Nedelya*

1. From Saturday after building the glass wall in the playing hall I count about 30 chess fans, half of them from the security service. What was the main purpose of your suggestion for the glass wall?

I think it is a glass door. It is just to keep sounds out. That is all.

2. I'm sure that the Russian publishers have no money to pay \$100,000, but I found Russian businessmen who can pay for them. After that, when will you be ready to meet Kasparov and, I hope, win?

First of all, this is nonsense that the Russian publishers don't have \$100,000. But secondly, I didn't say it was going to be only \$100,000. That would be to open the discussion. They say they published 50,000 copies. But who knows the real number? It could be 100,000 or it could be half-a-million copies, so that has to be determined. As I said, I'm not going to enter into negotiations about the Kasparov match until then.

3. Can you compare the regulations about postponements of games in the matches Fischer-Spassky and Kasparov-Karpov? Thanks for your attention to about 15 million Russian readers!

Well, what we have in these Soviet matches, aside from the fact that they are all prearranged, is that you really don't have to be sick to get a postponement. You just say, "I want the day off," and you have so many days off and that's it. Whether you are sick or not, you get those

days off, and if you become really sick later, you don't get any more days, because those days are both sick days and days off, whatever you want to make of them. In this match, the extra days off are only if you are really sick and you have to get a doctor's certificate.

All right, here is a question. One question from Robert Huntington, *Pacific News*. Is this a chess magazine or what is this? So it's a chess magazine, O.K.

At your last press conference you said that because of the injustices committed against you by the U.S. Government, you had not paid State or Federal income taxes since 1977. Do you intend to pay U.S. taxes on your earnings from this match?

No.

Host: Are there any questions for Mr. Spassky?

Dragan Popadic, *Montenegro Radio*

Mr. Spassky, it seems to me that you look more tired than Mr. Fischer after four hours of playing, and that you make more mistakes then. Would you agree?

Yes, I agree with this judgment. It's my problem of the fifth hour, this is correct.

Fischer: Here are some questions from Yasser Seirawan, *Inside Chess*.

1. Greetings from the staff of *Inside Chess* to both players! During the last 20 years you've been completely reclusive from the world of chess. You have a tremendous chess gift. Why didn't you lecture, write books, tour the world?

I think I've explained that in the previous press conference, I think it was last week. I've been blacklisted by the World Jewry.

2. The U.S. House of Representatives in Congress recognized you as World Champion. Doesn't it annoy you that the U.S. Chess Federation does not?

Well, this is not really true. The U.S. House of Representatives did not recognize me as World Champion. I think Congressman Charles B. Pashayan, Jr. put forward the resolution without effect, but it wasn't voted on. I mean, it was not accepted by the House.

As far as the U.S. Chess Federation goes, I have nothing to do with them, I consider them to be a pro-Soviet, criminal organization, terrible people. I would like... I would appreciate it if all of my fans cancelled their subscriptions to their horrible magazine *Chess Life* — I call it *Chess*

Lies — and withdrew from the membership of this organization. I haven't been a member of this organization for about, I don't know, maybe for about 17 years or something. I have a strict practice not to open *Chess Life*, since 1976 I haven't looked, haven't touched it. I see the cover, and that's it, I never open it. Also, the U.S. Chess Federation even now, I told them I'm not a member of the organization and I have nothing to do with them. Until recently, they were still using my name, saying I'm a member, trying to solicit memberships using my name. This is the kind of people they are.

3. What was your prediction of the score before the match? And now?

No prediction.

Question for Mr. Spassky:

Jovan Kovacic, *Reuters*

Mr. Spassky, are you fully capable of playing the match, I mean as far as your health is concerned?

I hope so. I had some problems with a kidney, but I'm quite all right. What I'm really enthusiastic about here is the sea. I'm swimming in the sea, it gives me lot of energy. For instance, during the last championship in France I had a kidney attack. After that I completely collapsed. The attacks give pain for a couple of hours. Even now, after these games, it bothers me a bit.

I started this marathon match like a sprint, and now I am really tired. I have put in so much energy, more than I have ever expended before in my life, so I'm also a little bit "druggy", but I hope I get some time for recreation today.

I would also like to mention one thing. When I missed the easy win in the sixth game I labored under a big handicap after that. Usually after such event, according to my match experience, and that is more than 25 years, usually after that you have to pay. So, I hope that I have paid my debt already in full. Of course, not intentionally, but I was really weak after that.

Host: We are approaching the end of the Press Conference. Mr. Fischer has in his hands the last questions.

Fischer: This is from Dusan Bucan, *Tanjug-Dnevnik*. I'll just take the second question.

What is, by your opinion, the critical moment in the game?

Which game? Oh, you mean in

general? No, I couldn't say.

Yladan Dinic, *Yecernje Novosti*

Fischer: I'll just take the third question.

The chess clock that you have invented seems to have defeated time trouble in chess. Is your comeback after twenty years defeating the time?

Yes, I hope so.

Host: We have some more time for a last question for Mr. Spassky, or maybe Mr. Fischer could answer some new questions. I think that all of us have the same feeling that we are more relaxed all together. Mr. Fischer, would you like to add something or maybe we can finish the press conference?

Fischer: I'll take one last question from Jurij Vasiljev, *Isvestia*, Moscow:

Dear Mr. Champion, you probably remember that in 1975 Mr. Campanes was one of the rare people to defend you against FIDE, and now he is president of FIDE. Will you have contacts with him?

It's not too likely, no. I'm against FIDE. With best wishes.

Host: Maybe these are the best words to conclude this press conference.

— Press Center Jugoskandic

After the press conference I went to Cetinje and missed a golden opportunity. That evening the organizers gave a cocktail party to unveil the commemorative stamp of the match and Bobby showed up unexpectedly! He was extremely approachable and friendly throughout the party and willingly posed for photographs and gave autographs. Rats!

Tseshkovsky held me to a hard-fought draw in Cetinje.

Tuesday, September 15

Awoke in Cetinje. Toured three of the city's special sites. Cetinje at the turn of the century was the capital of Montenegro. It has a rich cultural heritage of well over one thousand years. The first stop was the residence of the Montenegrin King Nicholas, who sired nine daughters and three sons. A man of foresight, he married his daughters well, cleaving unto the kings and princes of Europe, including the Romanovs. Nicholas became known as "the father-in-law of Europe." Needless to say, his residence was opulently furnished.

Next stop was Biljard. Now a museum, it was once home to the famous Yugoslav writer Petar Petrovic Njegros. This prolific writer was hailed as one of the great writers and thinkers of the 18th century. Once again, the ornaments and belongings of the time were extraordinary. Apparently, Petar brought a billiard table to Cetinje and fancied the game. Thus the name Biljard for the house.

The best was yet to come. The tour moved on to the local monastery, built in the 14th century. Made out of solid white stone quarried throughout these mountains, the thick walls reflect a history of doubling as a fortress. The rooms are cool, bathed in candlelight. The monastery was home to a Spartan, spiritual existence. Clearly tens of thousands had worshipped at these hallowed altars.

I thought I had seen it all in my travels, but I was astonished when one of the monks invited me to see the monastery's treasure room. This austere, strict, humble setting housed some of the most amazing artifacts I've ever seen: dozens of manuscripts that predated the printing

press by hundreds of years, robes of gold cloth encrusted with pearls, emeralds, diamonds, rubies and sapphires, beautifully wrought religious icons from all over Europe.

Then came the *pieces de resistance*. Two gold boxes, both about 8 inches square, encrusted with huge blue sapphires and sparkling white diamonds, housed some incredible things. Legend has it that one box contains a piece of the True Cross, while the second box contains the bones of the hand of the Apostle Andrew.

As I left the monastery, I was moved by the depth and breadth of the history of the Balkan people, who now face their greatest crisis.

Back to chess. That evening I ground down GM Dragan Barlov to score a win for my team.

Wednesday, September 16

Returning from Cetinje to Sveti Stefan is getting increasingly difficult. The UN sanctions are gradually destroying the rump state of Yugoslavia. Gasoline has all but disappeared and there is very little

traffic. Somehow our hosts manage to wangle us a ride. GM Stefan Djuric to the rescue.

The game today was a shock. The players consumed gobs of time getting into a theoretical position. Boris suddenly found a terrible novelty that Bobby pounced upon. I think this was the shortest decisive game in their history.

RL 8.6 Ruy Lopez Exchange C69

GM Bobby Fischer

GM Boris Spassky

Sveti Stefan (9) 1992

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6

An interesting decision. Bobby has played the Exchange Variation from time to time. Considering that he has had little to show for his efforts in his previous games as White, his choice today isn't surprising at all.

4...dxc6 5.O-O f6

5...Qd6, the modern move, is favored by Karpov.

6.d4 exd4

The other major alternative is 6...Bg4 7.dxe5 Qxd1 8.Rxd1 fxe5 with miles of

theory ahead. Spassky's choice is a matter of taste. It is also the older and more common continuation.

7.Nxd4!?

The most common line is 7.Qxd4 Qxd4 8.Nxd4 Bd7 with hundreds of games in the old database. Possibly Bobby was already contemplating playing a more obscure variation.

7...c5 8.Nb3 Qxd1 9.Rxd1 Bg4 10.f3 Be6

Both players were using a lot of time to get to this common position.

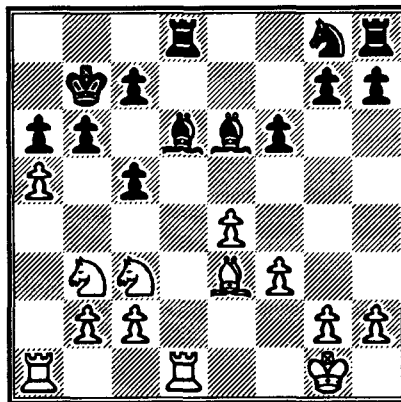
11.Nc3

Trying to discomfit Black by 11.Bf4 fails: 11...c4! 12.Nd4 O-O-O, pinning on the d-file, while 11...c4! 12.Na5? Bc5+ 13.Kh1 Bb6 14.Nxb7? Rb8 snares the Knight.

11...Bd6 12.Be3 b6 13.a4 O-O-O?! 14.a5 Kb7

An inferior, though playable move. Theory prefers 13...Kf7 14.a5 c4 15.Nd4 b5, considering the position to be equal. The text seems to allow White good tactical attacking operations at no cost.

14.a5 Kb7



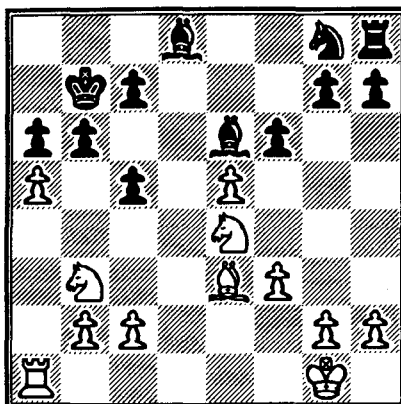
15.e5

Sharpening the game. The players are still firmly in the realm of theory, but afterward neither was aware of this fact. Both were relying on their own judgement. Boris was worried about 15.Na4!?, but in the postmortem they worked out 15.Na4 Nh6! 16.axb6 cxb6 17.Bxc5 Bxb3 18.Rxd6 Rxd6 19.Bxd6 Bxc2 as equal.

15...Be7

Black stands badly after 15...fxe5? 16.axb6 cxb6 17.Ne4 Be7 18.Rxd8 Bxd8 19.Nbxc5+, eventually winning a pawn.

16.Rxd8 Bxd8 17.Ne4

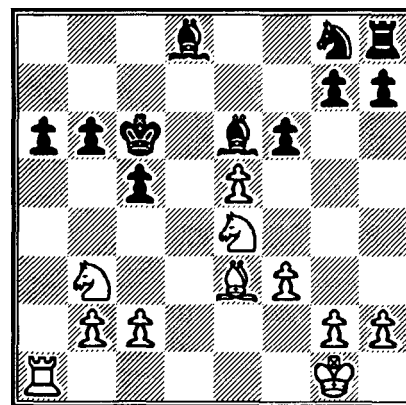


The players are still in the theory books. Boris thought for nearly half an hour, played his first original move of the game and could promptly have resigned!

17...Kc6??

As Boris himself explained, "I was thinking about 17...Bd5 and could find no advantage for White, when I suddenly got the idea to play 17...Kc6. Of course, I could immediately see that in two moves I was lost." Theory continues 17...Bxb3 18.cxb3 Ne7 19.axb6 cxb6 20.Nd6+ Kc6 21.Rxa6 Nd5, equality. Bobby felt White had a pull after 20.exf6 gxf6 21.Rd1 Nf5 22.Bf2, intending to meet 22...Kc6 with 23.g4, hitting the defender of d6. Perhaps Spassky's move 17...Bd5!? 18.Rd1 Ne7 (18...Kc6 19.c4) 19.exf6 gxf6 was the best choice.

18.axb6 cxb6



19.Nbxc5

Bobby snapped this off quickly. 19...Bc8 or 19...bxc5 20.Rxa6+ Bb6 21.Bxc5 is equally lost.

19...Bc8 20.Nxa6 fxe5 21.Nb4+ 1-0

Boris certainly couldn't stomach 21...Kb5 22.Nd6+ Kxb4 23.Ra3 with c2-c3 mate to follow!

I fully expect Bobby to get to five points first, but I've fallen in love with Sveti Stefan and leaving for Belgrade for the second half now would be tragic!

(Continued on page 20)

Athens, Greece

One of the newly emerging chess powers in Europe is Greece. Long a pushover in Balkaniad and Olympiad competitions, Yugoslavia's southern neighbor had no GMs as recently as three years ago. Greece now has three.

Estonian GM Jaan Ehlvest was the winner of the 1992 Greek Grand Prix, but the top story for local fans was the result of 26-year-old IM Efstratios Grivas, who made his third and final GM norm. When he is confirmed by FIDE, he will join Vasilios Kotronias and Spyridon Skembris in the ranks of Greek GMs (GM Peter Biyiasas was born in Greece, but moved to Canada at an early age).

One of the key individuals responsible for the turnaround is IM Nikolay Minev, who planted the seed of change while working as chief trainer of the Greek Chess Federation in the late 1970s and early 1980's. During this time he worked extensively with Skembris and Grivas. Dr. Minev holds the distinction of having three of his pupils achieve the GM title—Bulgarian Ivan Radulov being the third.

Komotini, Greece

August 15-23 9 Rd. Swiss

130 Players

1-5. GMs Skembris (GRC), Miles (ENG), Smirin (ISL), Alterman (ISL), and Ehlvest (EST) 7; 6-16. GMs Kir. Georgiev (BLG), Conquest (ENG), Tolnai (HUN), Groszpeter (HUN), Zaichik (GEO), Kr. Georgiev (BLG), Hector (SVE) and Kengis (LAT) plus IMs Andrianov (RUS), Grivas (GRC) and Blees (NLD) 6.5.

Katerini, Greece

August 25-September 2, 9 Rd. Swiss

160 Players

1. GM Ehlvest (EST) 7.5; 2-6. GMs

Wojtkiewicz (POL), Van der Wiel (NLD), Alterman (ISL), Smirin (ISL) and IM Grivas (GRC) 7; 7-12. GMs Sturua (GEO), Kengis (LAT), Tukmakov (UKR), Miles (ENG), Skembris (GRC) and IM Anastasian (ARM) 6.5.

Greek Grand Prix Standings

1.Ehlvest 14.5; 2-3. Alterman and Smirin 14; 4-6. Miles, Skembris, and Grivas 13.5.

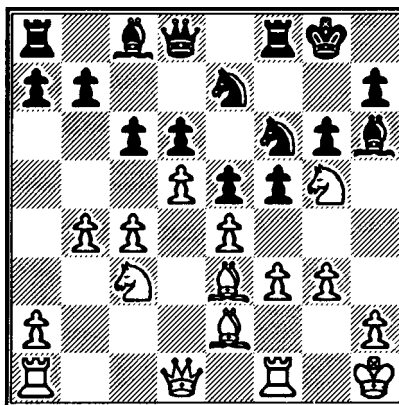
A total of 14,000,000 drachmas (about \$78,000) was awarded in prizes.

KI 5.3 King's Indian E97

GM Tony Miles
GM Krum Georgiev

Komotini 1992

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 O-O 5.e4 d6 6.Be2 e5 7.O-O Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.b4 Nh5 10.g3 f5 11.Ng5 Nf6 12.f3 c6 13.Be3 Bh6 14.Kh1



14...Nfxd5 15.cxd5 f4 16.gxf4 exf4 17.dxc6 Bxg5 18.cxb7 Bxb7 19.Bd4 Bf6 20.b5 g5 21.Rc1 Ng6 22.Bc4+ Kh8 23.Bd5 Qd7 24.Bxb7 Qxb7 25.Nd5 Be5 26.Nc7 Rac8 27.Bxe5+ dxe5 28.Qd6 g4 29.Rc6 gxf3 30.Rxf3 Rcd8 31.Qc5 Rf7 32.Nd5 Qd7 33.Qf2 Qg4 34.h3 Qg5 35.Qg1 Qh6 36.Qg4 Qg7 37.Rc8 Rxc8 38.Qxc8+ Rf8 39.Qg4 Rg8 40.Rc3 Nh4 41.Qxg7+ Kxg7 42.Rc7+ Kh6 43.Rc6+ Kg5 44.Re6 Ng6 45.a4 f3 46.Kh2 Rf8 47.Kg1 f2+ 48.Kf1 Rf3 49.Rc6 Ra3

50.Nc3 Nf4 51.Kxf2 Nxb3+ 52.Ke3 h5 53.Kd2 h4 54.Kc2 Nf2 55.Kb2 h3 56.Rc8 Rxa4 57.Nxa4 h2 58.Rh8 h1=Q 59.Rxh1 Nxb1 60.b6 axb6 61.Nxb6 Kf4 62.Nc4 Draw

Palm Bay, Florida

A record 81 players turned out August 1-2 for the Osler/Sun Bank 2nd Annual Space Coast Open, showing their support for a new concept on the Florida weekend Swiss circuit—corporate sponsorship. Osler Medical and Sun Bank teamed up as the primary sponsors for the event, along with 21 other business and individual sponsors. For the players, the benefits of the sponsorship arrangement ranged from the prize fund of \$4,400 in cash and other prizes—exceeding entry fees by over \$800—to little extras like the hand-ome 12-page "convenient" brochure provided to each player. Thirty-one players went home with prizes.

Florida State Champion Mikhail Braude (USCF 2550) proved his mettle by keeping control of the small, but strong, 17-player open section. Braude gave up an early draw to expert Steve Chakis, but that was all, as he finished with 4.5 from 5 to win clear first (\$450). The first prize booty also included an impressive trophy, a copy of *ChessBase University*, and a 6-month subscription to *Inside Chess*. Tying for 2nd at 3.5 were SM Ian Findlay of Canada and NM John Nardandrea of Florida, each winning \$270.

The tournament was ably directed by Steve Kelly and organized by Peter Dyson and Peter Koretsky of the Melbourne/Florida Tech Chess Club. Other assistants included Chuck Hall, Karen Dyson, David Miller, and Cihan Tepedelenlioglu.

Courtesy of Peter Dyson

Dearborn, Michigan

Seventeen-year-old SM **Vadim Tsemekhman** of Southfield, Michigan, was the winner of the 1992 Arnold Denker Tournament of State High School Champions, held August 10-14. The event, held in conjunction with the U.S. Open, featured 32 students from across the country.

Tsemekhman, the current U.S. Junior Champion, continued his sweep of national scholastic events with a 4.5-.5 performance. He will receive a \$500 college scholarship from the U.S. Chess Trust for his performance.

Tying for second at 4-1 were 18-year-old Corey Russell of Tacoma, Washington, and 14-year-old Dean Ippolito of Moon Tons' ip, New Jersey. Both will receive \$200 college scholarships for their results.

The competition was made possible thanks to the generosity of GM Denker, the U.S. Chess Trust, the U.S. Chess Federation and the Michigan Chess Association. Alan Benjamin directed, while Dan Burg, Pete Nixon and Mike Skidmore were the organizers.

Courtesy of the USCF

Havana, Cuba

GM Reynaldo Vera showed good fighting qualities and endurance to reach the top in the fiercely disputed **2nd International I.S.L.A. Open** held July 6-13. The event, a 9-round Swiss with 114 players, including 2 GMs and 10 FMs, was led until the 6th round by 18-year-old FM Julio Becerra. In Round Seven he was caught by GM Vera at 6 points. When they drew in the penultimate round they were joined in the lead at 6.5 by GM Amador Rodriguez and IM Dionisio Aldama. On the final day Vera defeated Aldama from the Black side of a sharp Najdorf Sicilian, while Becerra undeservedly scored the full point against Rodriguez, who had reached a completely won position with a full piece ahead only to overlook a simple trap that completely turned the tables.

GM Vera was declared champion by a mere half-point using the Bucholz tie-

break system, while IM Blas Lugo was alone in third with 7 points. Junior players Jose Gonzalez (Mexico) and Jose Seguera (Venezuela) were the top-scoring foreign players at 5.

The tournament once again counted on the co-sponsorship of companies like Castrol, Canon, DHL, Havanautos, and Havana Club. The Latin American Higher Chess Institute (I.S.L.A.) has scheduled its next event for November 16-23.

Final scores: 1-2. GM Seguera and Julio Becerra 7.5/9; 3. IM Lugo 7; 4-8. GM Rodriguez, IMs Panueque, Aldama, and Calderin, plus FM Pupo 6.5.

SI 9.3 Sicilian Najdorf B98

IM Dionisio Aldama
GM Reynaldo Vera

Havana 1992

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.O-O-O h6

A rarely seen move. The same idea has been tried, though on move eight, giving rise to the thoroughly analysed Goteborg Variation.

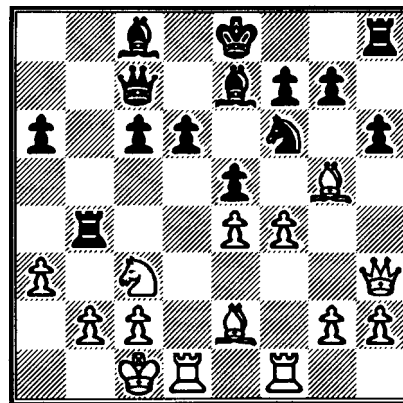
10.Qh3

A dubious move in my opinion. Best is the natural 10.Bh4.

10...Nc6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Be2 Rb8 13.Rhf1

This threatens 14.e5 in view of 14...dxe5 15.fxe5 Qxe5 16.Bf4, winning material.

13...Rb4 14.a3 e5!



The tactical justification for the preceding Rook maneuver, which otherwise would have been a loss of time.

15.Qh4 Rd4 16.fxe5 dxe5 17.Bxf6

A better idea is 17.Bd3 with the idea of an eventual Be3 or Ne2.

17...Bxf6 18.Rxf6

Interesting, but insufficient in the long run.

18...Rxd1 + 19.Nxd1 gxf6 20.Qxf6 Rg8 21.Ne3 Rg6 22.Qh8 + Ke7 23.Nc4 Rf6 24.Nxe5

There is no way to increase the pressure, so White has to allow further simplification, and what is worse, the activation of Black's Queen.

24...Qxe5 25.Qxc8 Qxe4 26.Qxa6 Qxg2 27.Kb1 Qxh2 28.a4 Qg1 + 29.Ka2 c5 30.Qa7 + Kf8 31.a5 Qd4 32.a6 Qb4 33.c3?

A blunder that rushes the outcome. More stubborn was 33.b3.

33...Qa4 + 34.Kb1 Qe4 + 35.Ka2 Qa4 + 36.Kb1 Qe4 + 37.Ka2 Qxe2

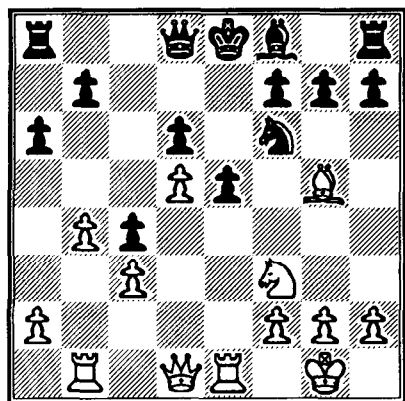
38.Qb8+ Kg7 39.a7 Qa6+ 40.Kb3
Rb6+ 0-1

SI 1.6 Sicilian Rossolimo B51

IM Dionisio Aldama
Pedro Rodriguez

Havana 1992

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nc6 4.O-O
Bd7 5.c3 Nf6 6.Re1 a6 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.d4
Bxe4 9.Bg5 Bxb1 10.Rxb1 e6 11.d5 e5
12.b4! c4



13.Nxe5!? dxe5 14.Rxe5+ Kd7 15.b5
Bd6 16.Re4 Re8 17.Rxc4 Re5 18.Bf4!
Rxd5 19.Rd4 Rxd4 20.Qxd4 Ne8 21.Qd5!

Rc8 22.Qf5+ Kc7? 23.bxa6 b6 24.Be3!
Rb8 25.a7 Rb7 26.Bxb6+! Rxb6 27.Qa5
Bb4 28.a8=N+ Kc6 29.cxb4! Rb8
30.Qa6+ 1-0

Saratoga Springs, New York

Joel Benjamin scored a perfect 6-0, including an important 4th round victory over fellow GM Michael Rohde, to take first place in the 114th Annual New York State Championship held September 4-7. The 28-year-old editor of *Chess Chow* received \$1,000 and 18 Grand Prix points for his efforts. Bill Goichberg's Continental Chess Association organized this historic event.

Berlin, Germany

The Berlin Summer Open, traditionally one of the strongest open tournaments in Europe, was true to form this year. A veritable army of players from the former Soviet Union dominated the event, attracted by a prize fund of 65,000 Deutsch

Marks (about \$44,200). Only 6 of the top 30 were not trained in the Soviet Union.

Tying for first at 7 from 9 in the event, held August 15-23, were GMs Yuri Dokhoian, Konstantin Aseev, Alexander Shneider (all RUS), Viatcheslav Eingorn and Vladimir Tukmakov (UKR), and Jorg Hickl (GER).

SI 38.9 Sicilian Sveshnikov B33

GM Semyon Dvoris
IM Sergey Kalinichev

Berlin 1992

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5
9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 f5 11.Bd3 Be6 12.Qh5
Rg8 13.O-O-O Rc8

Brodsky-Kramnik, USSR 1991, saw
13...Rxc2!? 14.f4 Nd4 15.Ne3 Rf2 16.exf5
~xa2 17.fxe~ dxe3 18.Nxb3 Bh6! with in-
teresting play for Black.

14.Kb1 h6 15.Qe2!? Nd4 16.Qe1
fxe4?! 17.Bxe4 f5? 18.Rxd4 fxe4 19.Qxe4
Rg4 20.f4 Rc5 21.g3 Kf7 22.Rd2 Qa8
23.Rhd1 exf4?! 24.Re2! Rg6? 25.Qxf4+
Ke8 26.Qf5 Rxd5 27.Rxe6+ Kd7
28.Re5+ 1-0 ■

Fischer-Spassky II

Wednesday, September 16

After Bobby's victory in Game Nine, Yvette and I decided celebration was in order. We went to the hotel restaurant and it was marvelous. Like the entire island, it is built in a fortress style from the 11th century. The villas are built from the white stone of the Montenegrin cliffs. Hanging vines and gardens adorn the villas. The panoramic views are breathtaking. The ocean waters and mountain air combine to create a perfect retreat. I can truthfully say this is one of the most beautiful, idyllic settings I've ever visited. We had dinner on the terrace, overlooking the Bay of Budva.

As it happened we were seated next to Spassky's table. He was eating with his two seconds, Yuri Balashov and Nikitin. I apologized to Boris upon seeing him. "But why, Yasser?" he asked. I explained that I had just faxed my report to *Inside Chess*, saying that he had followed theory for 15 moves, had made one original move and could have resigned! We all laughed. Boris was in surprisingly good humor for a man who had lost three games running. We shared jokes for an hour. Boris explained that he had cut his hair that day and, like Samson, lost his strength. "Every time I get a haircut, I lose the game! I knew this danger, but I took my chances."

After dinner Marlene Torre, wife of Fischer's second Eugenio, and her daughter Nicky gave us a guided tour. Teams of bodyguards were in evidence, reminding us of the dangerous Balkans — but they were friendly towards us, as Nicky had won their hearts. Marlene invited us to go swimming tomorrow and we accepted.

Thursday, September 17

A free day today as Spassky took a time out. At noon we strolled to Sveti Stefan's Queen Beach for a swim. When we arrived, Bobby and Torre were in the water, happily splashing around. We set ourselves up at a discreet distance. What to do? Go rushing up and lay a high-five on Bobby? Or just catch a few rays?

Bodyguards were hanging around, so I decided to be cool. Besides, I had work to do and began writing up my analysis for a possible book on the match. By this

time Bobby and Eugenio were out of the water under a beach umbrella talking. I could clearly hear their conversation. Again the temptation to say hello was resisted. I took to writing in earnest. Sometime later, Yvette informed me that *they* were leaving. As I waved goodbye to Eugenio, a little girl with her father in tow ran up to Bobby to get his autograph. She got it and Bobby's reward was a squeal of delight from the tot and a big smile complete with a missing front tooth.

Back to work for me. Ten minutes later Yvette said nervously, "Bobby's coming over!" And indeed he was. We scrambled to our feet and shook hands all round. For me, it was a magic moment.

Bobby is a big guy. Around 6'2", with big hands and a warm, friendly face. He smiles and laughs easily. We quickly found a lot of topics to talk about. He thanked me for the *Premiere Chess Set* I brought him. He loved the wood grains and craftsmanship. He found two faults, though: the pieces were too heavy (they are extra-weighted) and the Queen's crown, too pointed. I explained I had used the set in the Mecking match. Oh, yes! Mecking. He was smiling again. Bobby wanted confirmation that this was the set we sold in the magazine, and I told him it was.

We then talked about *Five Crowns*, my book on the Kasparov-Karpov New York-Lyons match. He praised the book to the skies and I was understandably pleased. Bobby wanted a couple of extra copies. Done! We spoke about the two mistakes in the book. "You know the one in the Ruy Lopez?" he said. Yes, I knew. He then continued to praise the book. Silently, I thanked the tremendous efforts of Jonathan Tisdall, my co-author, and Jonathan Berry, the book's editor. This moment made all the work worthwhile.

In my mind I've prepared myself to meet Bobby for twenty years. Suddenly we were just two guys talking about a common love — chess. All too soon Bobby had to leave, the sun was too strong for him. He invited us to come over to his villa and get one of his clocks to use for blitz. We talked about possible Fischer Clock blitz time controls, e.g. two minutes to start and then two seconds per additional move, and other possibilities.

Friday, September 18

Today was the last day of the Yugoslavian team championship. I drew, and my team (Nis) finished 8th in a field of 12, good enough to stay in the top division for next year. The team celebrated until 2 a.m. I had had the foresight to bring a bottle of Jim Beam from the States. Strong stuff. It really warms the body.

Saturday, September 19

Woke up feeling a little worse for wear. Had a final lunch with the Nis team. A better, more joyful collection of men and women would be hard to find.

As always, getting back to Sveti Stefan from Cetinje was a struggle. We caught the bus to Budva and worked our way over to Sveti Stefan. The weather was gorgeous, the sun high and sweltering. I fear a jealous crew back in Seattle when they see my tan!

Upon arrival at the match site, I was surprised to see a Nimzo-Indian on the board. No K.I.D., no Grunfeld. Bobby was varying his opening defenses in the extreme. Clearly, Bobby has not been idle for last twenty years!

NI 23.6 Nimzo-Indian Classical E35

GM Boris Spassky
GM Bobby Fischer

Sveti Stefan (10) 1992

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6

A surprise. While the text had been a normal part of Bobby's repertoire, most GM's had expected the match to be waged within the parameters of the King's Indian.

3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2

The classical treatment of the Nimzo-Indian. The text was a favorite of Jose Raul Capablanca, who loved simple, clear play. It aims to win the two Bishops after a2-a3 without spoiling White's queenside pawn structure. Significantly, Boris refrains from one of his old favorites, 4.Bg5, counterpinning the Black Knight. That variation is considered very sharp and a little reckless.

4...d5

Considered the most solid defense to the 4.Qc2 variation. Modern masters prefer the double-edged lines that arise from 4...O-O 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 b6 7.Bg5 Bb7 etc.

5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4!?

This move was revitalized by Garry

Kasparov in a celebrated game against Spassky. The quiet 7.Bxf6 Qxf6 8.a3 Bxc3+ 9.Qxc3 O-O! 10.e3 promises White a dull, small advantage.

7...c5

An essential counterstrike in the center. If Black omits this move, he will be playing a Queen's Gambit Declined with the b4-Bishop misplaced.

8.dxc5

Kasparov breathed new life into the variation with this move that has all the appearances of being very dangerous for White; it "allows" a possible ...d5-d4 which, in conjunction with the b4-Bishop, threatens White with the loss of his c3-Knight. Kasparov, however, had found a hidden resource for White making the move possible. From a positional point of view, White gains a big plus: Black's d5-pawn becomes isolated and subject to a frontal attack. If White can control the tactics in the position, he'll have a promising game.

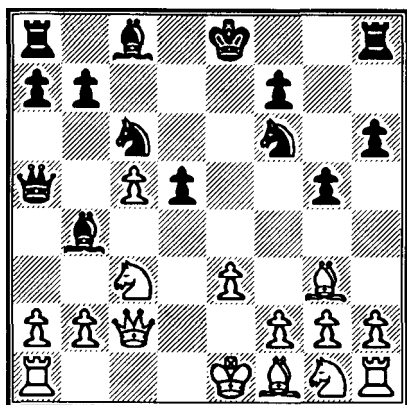
8...Nc6

The immediate 8...d4 is met by 9.Rd1, when the d4-pawn itself becomes a target: 8...d4 9.Rd1 Nc6 10.e3 followed by Ng1-f3.

9.e3 g5

This pawn weakening raises the stakes yet again. Black courts positional disaster. But he must burn his bridges, else White has a positional advantage anyway. By the next move, Black breaks the pin, allowing the possible moves ...Nf6-e4 or ...Qd8-a5. Instead of gambiting a pawn or two for the initiative, Black creates a host of pawn weaknesses.

10.Bg3 Qa5



A sharp decision. Black could consider a line like 10...Nc4 ...Pb5? or 12.Qa4, menacing Qxb4. The text stops defenses based on Qc2-a4 and introduces a possible ...Bc8-f5.

11.Nf3

Restraining ...d5-d4.

11...Ne4 12.Nd2!?

Boris follows the theoretically recommended path. Bad is 12.Rc1, as 12...Qxa2! grabs the important a-pawn and White will no longer have defenses based on a2-a3.

12...Nxc3 13.bxc3 Bxc3 14.Rb1

Still within theory's boundaries. It seems more sensible to play 14.Rc1, hitting the c3-Bishop, but after 14...Bg7 Black has ...Nc6-b4xa2 as a threat. Meanwhile the pawn structures are mutually tattered.

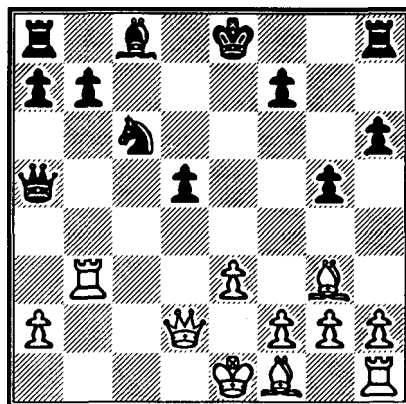
14...Qxc5

This sensible capture is actually a novelty! Previously the lame 14...a6 was played and after 15.Bd6 White could claim an advantage. Why no one thought to play 14...Qxc5 before is a real mystery. Black gains a material plus of a pawn and challenges White to find compensation.

15.Rb5 Qa3! 16.Rb3

Gaining the two Bishops after the forced sequence of moves. It will be a hollow victory, as the forthcoming ending is even. It was dangerous for White to flirt with the variation 16.Rxd5? Nb4 17.Qe4+ Be6 18.Bb5+ Kf8 19.Bd6+ Kg8, as Black's King is quite safe, while White has to deal with ...Qa3-c1+ and ...Be6xd5 threats.

16...Bxd2+ 17.Qxd2 Qa5



The opening over, Bobby looked quite satisfied. Boris had played directly into his preparation, which he had worked out to equality. Boris now tries to squeeze more from the position than it offers.

18.Bb5?

Trying to keep his chances alive. White has to reply to 18.Q... 19.Rb5 Nc6 20.Rxd5 Be6 21.Rd2 Rd8 22.Rb2 Rd7 23.Bb5 Ke7 with a very dry draw.

18...Qxd2+ 19.Kxd2 Bd7

And just like that, Black keeps his extra pawn. Boris now went into a blue funk, realizing that he has far better losing chances than winning ones. With great reluctance he accepts an inferior Bishops-of-opposite-color ending a pawn down.

20.Bxc6

A painful decision, but keep in mind Boris has lost three games in a row! A fantasy line for Spassky fans would run 20.Rhb1 O-O-O?? 21.Ba6 bxa6 22.Rb8+ Nxb8 Rxb8 mate! The problem with Rhb1 is that it doesn't contain a threat. After 20...Ke7 White is asked to find another move besides Bb5xc6.

20...Bxc6 21.h4?!

Inexact. More convincing was 21.Be5 Rg8 22.Bd4 Ke7 23.g4! followed by h2-h4, when the position is easy to hold.

21...Ke7 22.Be5 f6!

This is the difference. Black now has the time to block the kingside, forcing a concentration of pieces to the queenside where Black has an extra pawn.

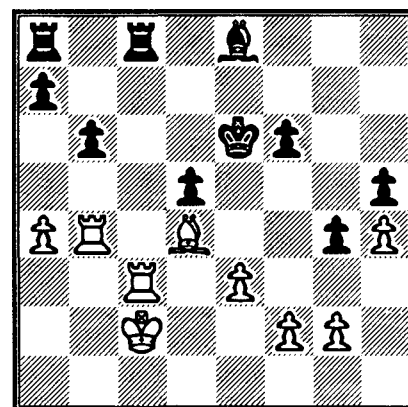
23.Bd4 g4 24.Rc1

Playing to fully "keep" the position. The assembled GM's began to predict "draw" soon. I thought otherwise. Bobby always plays for a win. He will play until the last opportunity is exhausted. Both sides will now try to optimize their forces on the queenside.

24...Ke6 25.Rc4 26.Rc3 Rxc8 27.a4!

A good decision. White threatens a4-a5, locking up the queenside. Black is obliged to play ...b7-b6 in order to keep the queenside flexible, but in that case, a4-a5, liquidating the queenside pawns, remains a constant concern.

27...b6 28.Kc2 Be8!



In order to make progress, Bobby has to activate his Bishop. His plan is ...Be8-g6-e4.

29.Kb2 Rxc3 30.Bxc3 Rc8 31.e4?

An amazing decision. The move is a kind of tease. Boris keeps a draw, but gives Black chances. I expected Boris to stop Black from activating his Bishop with 31.Rf4! f5 32.Rb4! Rc4 33.Kb3 Rc7 34.Kb2 Bd7 35.Bd4 Bc8 36.a5 bxa5 37.Rb5 with a draw. By trading pawns White opens the d5-square for possible penetration. This could be especially worrisome if you consider that g2-g3 will become forced, and then the march ...K 6-d5- 4-f3 b-t b-l-d. All in all, few would imitate Boris here.

31...Bc6 37.exd5 + Bxd5 33.g3 Bc4

Preparing ...Ke6-f3! White must stop this at all costs!

34.Bd4 Kd5 35.Be3

To demonstrate how vigilant White has to be, if he plays 35.Bxf6?!, ...Rf8 wins at once!

35...Rc7

Sadly, 35...Ke4 36.Kc3 forces the backpedaling 37...Kd5 to protect the c4-Bishop. If Black is unable to play ...Kf3, he will have to accept a draw.

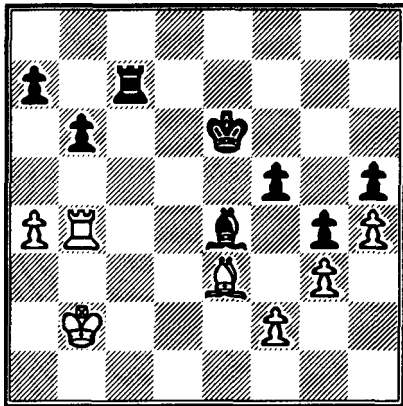
36.Kc3

Not fearing a discovered check.

36...f5 37.Kb2 Ke6

After this, everyone expected the dinner bell, not anticipating the adventures that follow.

38.Kc3 ...d5 + 39.Kb2 Be4



At last, Black's Bishop reaches its best square. Since further activation by ...Rc7-c2 is in the offing, Boris correctly takes the time to liquidate the queenside.

40.a5

Another plan of defense is 40.Ka3 in order to play 40...Rc2 41.Rb2 Rc3 + 42.Rb3, keeping Black's Rook out. I prefer Boris' move, but it is a matter of taste.

40...bxa5 41.Rb5 a4 42.Rc5! Rb7 +

Of course, exchanging Rooks is a dead

draw.

43.Ka3 a6 44.Kxa4 Bd5 45.Ka5

The point. White collects the a-pawn, restoring the material balance. Draw?

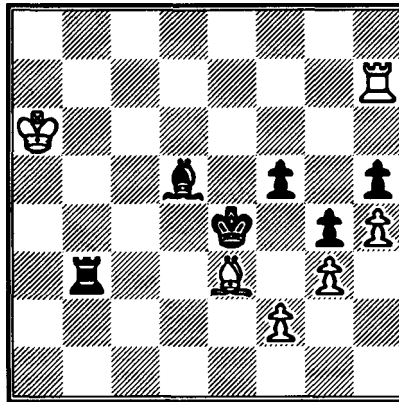
45...Ke5

No way! Bobby still envisages ...Kf3 and a potential Exchange sacrifice.

46.Kxa6 Rb3 47.Rc7!?

Essentially allowing the upcoming Exchange sacrifice. Boris calculated to perfection that it wasn't dangerous for him.

47...Ke4 48.Rh7



Who's winning? White will have a fast-running h-pawn. Black gets two connected passers. The press center came alive with analyzing hands.

48...Rxe3 49.fxe3 Kxe3 50.Rxh5 Be4 51.Rh8

Gearing up the h-pawn express!

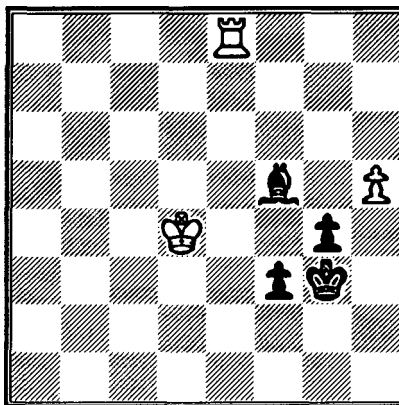
51...Kf3 52.Re8 Kxg3 53.h5

...to the races!

53...Bd3 + 54.Kb6

Now Boris is playing to win! By 54.Ka5!? f4 55.Rd8 Bb1 56.Rb1 Bh7 57.Rh8 Bf5 58.Rf8 White draws by chasing the Black Bishop. Boris has an idea in mind to win.

54...f4 55.Kc5 f3 56.Kd4 Bf5!



Not falling for the trick 56...f2? 57.Rf8 f1 = Q (White threatened 58.Ke3 and Rxf2) 58.Rxf1 Bxf1 59.h6 and White wins! The text was the best move, since 56...Bb1

57.Ke3 is pleasant for White.

57.Rf8 Kf4

The point. Black will Queen.

58.h6

But so will White!

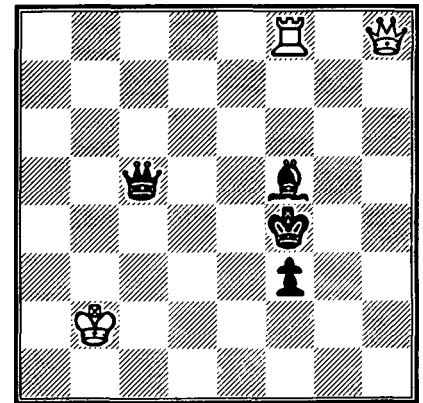
58...g3

There isn't much difference between this and 58...f2 59.h7 f1 = Q 60.h8 = Q Qa1 + 61.Kc5 Qxh8 62.Rxh8 g3 63.Rh1 and White manages to sacrifice his Rook for the remaining pawn.

59.h7 g2 60.h8 = Q g1 = Q +

Now Bobby's remaining hope is to exchange Queens and go ...f3-f2-f1 without allowing a Rook sacrifice. This isn't possible, but why not try?

61.Kc4 Qc1 + 62.Kb3 Qc2 + 63.Kb4 Qe4 + 64.Kc3 Qc6 + 65.Kb3 Qd5 + 66.Kc3 Qc5 + 67.Kb2



Black has achieved the optimum square for his Queen. But playing 67...f2? 68.Qh4 + Kf3 69.Qh3 + Kf4 means a draw for White by perpetual check. Playing for a win with 68...Ke3 69.Re8 + could easily backfire.

67...Qb4 +!

By a % chance of winning! If 68.Ka1 Qb1 mate, or 68.Kc1 Qb1 + 69.Kd2 Qc2 + 70.Ke1 Qe2 mate.

68.Ka2

Shucks! Draw agreed.

A difficult and uncompromising fight. The match is now in full swing. I felt this to be the best balanced fight of the match.

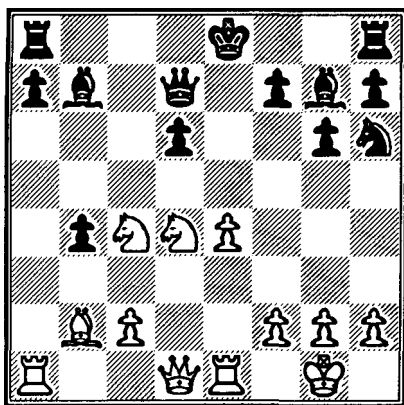
SI 31.7 Sicilian Rossolimo B31

GM Bobby Fischer

GM Boris Spassky

Sveti Stefan (11) 1992

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.Bxc6 bxc6 5.O-O Bg7 6.Re1 e5 7.b4 cxb4 8.a3 c5 9.axb4 cxb4 10.d4 exd4 11.Bb2 d6 12.Nxd4 Qd7 13.Nd2 Bb7 14.Nc4 Nh6



15.Nf5 Bxb2 16.Ncxd6+ Kf8 17.Nxh6
f6 18.Ndf7 Qxd1 19.Raxd1 Ke7 20.Nxh8
Rxh8 21.Nf5+ gxf5 22.exf5+ Be5 23.f4
Rc8 24.fxe5 Rxc2 25.e6 Bc6 26.Rc1 Rxc1
27.Rxc1 Kd6 28.Rd1+ Ke5 29.e7 a5
30.Rc1 Bd7 31.Rc5+ Kd4 32.Rxa5 b3
33.Ra7 Be8 34.Rb7 Kc3 35.Kf2 b2 36.Ke3
Bf7 37.g4 Kc2 38.Kd4 b1Q 39.Rxb1 Kxb1
40.Kc5 Kc2 41.Kd6 1-0

The fourth and last press conference from Sveti Stefan – September 21

The first questions of the press conference were addressed to Spassky. He expressed the hope that with some rest he will do better in the second half of the match. In response to a question from Yasser Seirawan about the eleventh game, Boris said:

"I was a little bit surprised after 7.b4 and at the same time I became very happy because I realized that Bobby was playing as he did in his youth. Probably I made a psychological mistake when I tried to fight for the counterinitiative. I missed a couple of possibilities. Instead of 12...Qd7 which was a weak move, 12...Qb6 gives Black a normal game and there was a possible plan with the Knight on f6.

"Anyway this was not the normal way of playing this position from a strategical point of view because White usually wants to play with a Knight against a Bishop when the pawns are doubled and Bobby somehow switched to a tactical way of playing. That made me happy somehow and I started to enjoy myself during the game. But I found that some of the problems that Bobby put before me during the game were too difficult to solve. After 15.Nf5 I think that White had a good initiative. I think it was a really good game for Bobby and I would like to congratulate him on his nice play. I got pleasure from yesterday's game and that is the reason for my really good mood."

Bobby Fischer said that he had not ruled out the possibility of a match with Kasparov but the question of his Russian royalties for *My 60 Memorable Games* must be addressed first. Bobby also said that he thought the first and the eleventh had been the best games of the match so far.

In response to a question about whether he felt that his 1974 demand for a race to ten victories type of match was justified, Bobby said:

"Yes, it was a justifiable request. There's no danger of a match lasting forever unless the players want it to. The first match between Karpov and Kasparov, when they played an endless series of draws, pretending that they couldn't win, because the system of not counting draws was bad, was just staged. I mean even an individual game of chess could last almost forever, thousands and thousands of moves, if both the players wanted it that way."

Yvette Nagel of *Inside Chess* asked:

As a Dutch chess fan, I'd like to ask your opinion of Jan Timman, his strengths and weaknesses.

"He is a very excellent player. A real

professional. I have certain misgivings about his magazine *New in Chess*. It's terribly pro-Soviet and treats them like human beings rather than the crooks they are, completely ignoring the fact that they are prearranging games on a massive scale."

Bobby then declined to predict a winner in the Timman-Short match and in reply to a question as to whether he would accept a challenge from Timman said only: "Perhaps."

From Yasser Seirawan:

If you return to the U.S., you'll certainly face a tax liability. The rumor is that you may stay a year or two in Yugoslavia. Is this true?

"Well, as I explained before, I haven't paid my federal income tax or California state income tax since 1974, so I'm not going to start worrying about it now. It's just more of the same for me. As for staying in Yugoslavia, so far I'm having a really good time. I really don't know how long I am going to stay here."

The unofficial date for the resumption of the match is September 30 in Belgrade.

MIKHAIL TAL

A FOND REMEMBRANCE

by Edward Pariants

Editor's note: We first met Edward Pariants in the company of Mikhail Tal in New York City in 1990 at the Macklowe Hotel, site of the Kasparov-Karpov World Championship match. Misha Tal had just written a piece for Inside Chess and we were squaring away the debt. Misha introduced his friend Edward to me and asked if it would be okay if he sent articles to us through Edward. "Misha, we can do anything you want!" We all laughed and started planning away.

Now, months after Misha's death, Edward Pariants has written this loving remembrance to his friend, Misha Tal.

In my dream Misha was saying, "I'll be back."

He smiled and repeated, "I'll be back—without fail!" In the middle of the night somebody rang the doorbell, but it wasn't him.

"Mikhail will come if he promises," I reassured myself, still not opening my eyes. It was dawn in New York. In Riga, a day of great mourning, the day of farewell to World Chess Champion Mikhail Tal was passing.

A beautiful man was gone, the brightest player of our century was lost. Earth possessed one genius less. Nature is not generous with genius. Should she perchance extend the offer to all, few, if they knew the conditions genius imposes, would readily accept.

A person's life is a tapestry woven of memories. For me there are certain colorful threads that will never be broken . . . falling shells on the roof of the last train leaving Latvia in the summer of 1941 . . . the hunger in the remote Russian city of Perm . . .

Monumental Questions

Then, of course, there is fate. The monumental question is, Why? Why are there people here on Mother Earth who must live without a kidney or without half

their insides. Why did this have to be *his* fate? This I can't understand. All too often, while the world awaited further sparkling victories a la Tal, he was in an ambulance, angrily demanding that he be made well enough to play chess "sooner, faster, quicker!"

Overmedication following his first illness caused Misha to become so dependent upon morphine that no one believed he could ever shake his addiction to it, except his wife Gelya. Perhaps Mikhail also believed it possible when he saw this small, courageous woman fighting to restore his health. And in time he did free himself from the drug.

It's been more than 40 years since my first visit to the modest apartment of this large and friendly family. I see them all in that comfortable apartment on the third floor. Mother Ida, usually working in the kitchen; Brother Jacob—medical man and great pursuer of the ladies; his Father Noheim and Uncle Robert.

He once said to me in passing, "I have always been a lucky guy with wives." And then he began purring, humming, as usual, a strain from one of his own compositions. As if he did not catch my amused look, he started browsing through some chess literature.

He loved music and would say at a gathering, "Play something very anti-Soviet and pro-Jewish." And then there were the beautiful times when he took the guitar in his own hands. With his deformed right hand, minus two fingers at birth, and almost tuneless voice, Misha played and sang so tenderly and so softly, and with such incredible depth of feeling, that we were enthralled and wanted to hear him again and again.

Sometimes the singing would end abruptly and, leaving his guests to fend for themselves, Misha would disappear into his workroom, always piled high with newspapers and magazines from around the world, and immerse himself in his beloved game. The party would go on

without him for a while and then he would rejoin us, refreshed and stimulated by a visit to his kingdom.

Misha was only five years older than me, but the gap between us was larger. He was finishing college when I was beginning high school. His brilliance had allowed him to complete four years' worth of classes in one!

Though small, Misha was the best goalkeeper at school. Few of us knew that he was attending the special chess section at the local Pioneer Palace. There he studied under a remarkable teacher, the late Ian Krueskopf. We had all heard much about him, most of it bad. It was said that his drinking had cost him the chess master's degree, but none of us ever saw him drunk. Many famous players were his students. There Misha found happiness. He could fight with really strong players and try out his ideas.

World Championship

Misha lost his father before his second world championship match. Only a year before, in 1959, the young Grandmaster from Riga had defeated the giant of Soviet chess, World Champion Mikhail Botvinnik. The year before that, no one had believed such a result possible, yet we all had known that Misha was brilliant.

When he became number one in the USSR, there was a revolution in the way chess was played in the Soviet Union. Players at all levels suddenly felt an unbelievable need to sacrifice at all costs, to risk everything for hazardous, usually unjustified, attacks, without looking to the possibility of defense. The chess world discarded the accepted values of the pieces. It was as if you could no longer say that a Rook was better than a Knight or that two Bishops have an advantage over Bishop and Knight.

Misha told me a story of his victorious first meeting with Botvinnik. After one of the games was adjourned, he sat in a Moscow park until late in the evening, so lost

in thought that he was arrested for drunkenness. At the police station he was unable to convince the Lieutenant in charge that he was Tal and that he had to play Botvinnik the next day! They spent the night playing chess. The next day the Lieutenant confessed that he had recognized Misha, but had kept him overnight for the pleasure of playing him!

Before the second match Mikhail was in deepest mourning for his father. Misha was also ill himself (it was at this time that he began taking morphine), and he asked Botvinnik for a delay. Botvinnik refused. He asked for proof of Tal's illness from Moscow doctors, saying he couldn't believe the Riga therapists. I have heard a false version of this story from Botvinnik many times in his lectures and I have no desire to discuss it. For me, it was the greatest pleasure to observe a famous man, a former World Champion, seeking justification for his actions. But could he do it?

A Player's Work

Long before Misha became World Champion in 1959, his rivals began saying that he was playing only on their mistakes. Somewhat later, American Grandmaster Pal Benko, fearing Tal's hypnotic stare, wore sunglasses when playing Misha!

It goes without saying that Misha was a prodigiously talented player, but the secret of his genius did not lie in his amazing ability to calculate or in his phenomenal memory—he could show you all 40 games played in a simul!—his greatest gift was his love of the game.

I have heard it said that Tal did not know any theory, that he just played “off the top of his head.” This is ridiculous. To be a genius in your profession a complete mastery of theory is a necessary starting point. Consider the great Spanish painter Velasquez. Velasquez' deep understanding of classical painting was the foundation that allowed him to *diverge* from classical theory more profoundly than anyone else of his time.

The same could be said of Misha. His advanced chess education was conducted under one of the best theoreticians in the world, Alexander Koblenz, who knew chess inside and out. Sasha wrote a vast number of books on openings, the middlegame, combinations, tactics and endings. All these works entered the treasury

of chess culture. His discoveries foreshadowed the rocket-like rise of Tal.

He could analyze a position in his head while reading the newspaper, talking or drinking, and see the wealth of possibilities.

Misha loved life in all its diversity. Many of our colleagues say that he didn't want to sacrifice all his time for chess. Who knows? Are they speaking about his coming to a friend with a bottle of cognac? Or about his attachment to Asian food, or his never-ending desire to see New York, with its girls on 42nd street, who stole all his New York Open prize money?

To be sure, he never became a monk and his work ethic differed from our customary idea of it. With his fantastic memory—he remembered almost everyone he had ever met—he did not need to sit staring at a chess set. He could analyze a position in his head while reading the newspaper, talking or drinking, and see the wealth of possibilities.

Tal, to be sure, worked as no one else could. Misha preferred our modest apartment to any hotel for the rich and famous, creating an immense clutter of books, magazines and manuscripts on chess when he stayed with us. He took them out one after another, threw them somewhere or other, made notes, singing, “It's interesting!” All the while he mentally played over tens of variations.

He really loved people, friends. He liked it when Americans stopped him on the street to shake his hand. Journalists loved him, because he understood their work—for a long time Misha was the main editor of Latvia's magazine *Chess*.

I handled his correspondence from many countries and cities. You could wake him anytime of the day or night, and he was always ready to give a witty, ingenious comment pleasing to all readers, amateurs as well as professionals. He wrote many books that others took credit for.

After 1961 Misha was no longer cham-

pion, but still very strong. In 1972 Misha played almost 100 consecutive games without defeat. He felt great for a while, but his health remained a constant problem. When playing in the 1973 Leningrad Interzonal, he was on the phone every day. “Please, doctor, something is wrong. I am floating in my fourth hour of play, groggy in my fifth, and then—dead!”

Many of us think that being World Champion means leading a carefree life, reveling in the worship of the masses and having plenty of money. Not so. Tal had to struggle to make ends meet for his family. When he won the title, Misha received less than \$6000. That was half the salary of a sanitation worker!

Recent Years

Certainly, he was later glad to serve Anatoly Karpov in his wild fight with the fugitive Viktor Kortchnoi. To be honest, Misha never felt real friendship with Karpov, for many reasons. First of all, it was Misha's greatest desire to participate in the struggle for the title once more. Second, Misha always considered Karpov's predecessor, American Grandmaster Bobby Fischer, a genius. Last year in New York, he still believed that Bobby would come out of hiding. Misha knew that the lack of a Karpov-Fischer match was not Anatoly's fault, but he always replied to my joking, taunting “You have to agree, Karpov was a deserving champion” by exclaiming: “Of course, but he isn't a genius. Fischer *was*. So is Kasparov. Can you show me any game of Karpov that shows genius?”

Misha awaited Kasparov's ascendance to the world crown and Anatoly knew it. While Karpov remained champion, Misha couldn't receive invitations to big tournaments. But to be fair, we have to understand Karpov's position. He had to keep his secrets and those of his staff, which consisted of such luminaries as Lev Polugaevsky and Rafael Vaganian.

Some years later, when Karpov had lost his title but was still a power in the USSR chess federation, I pointed out the stupidity of Misha's still not receiving invitations to big tournaments to him. “I didn't know,” was the answer I received. And the entire picture changed, as if passed over by a magic hand, but it was too late for a half-century-old Grandmaster. In the end it was Karpov who helped the family to get to Riga from Moscow and he

attended the burial himself.

Misha's Uncle Robert was unusual man. As a youth he left his native country and sailed all around the world. His favorite theme of conversation was Misha. Smiling, he told me that once, when his nephew was in Stockholm playing, he had holes in his shoes. When Misha returned, Robert asked why he hadn't bought a new pair. "I didn't have any money." "But all this luggage?" "It's for one of my friends. He begged me to bring him some shirts, but I forgot what size, so I had to buy a lot of them." Robert put his hand into Misha's suit pocket and found about 2,000 kronor! "Oh yes. I played an additional match with Andersson for TV, but I forgot about it."

Robert was gentle man who believed that he would return after death as a dog. Misha didn't tell me how he'd return. He never believed in reincarnation. But remember, he said in my dream that he'd be back.

Let us wait . . . ■

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

1A. Title of Publication: **INSIDE CHESS**. 1B. Publication No. 08968195. 2. Date of Filing: 9/22/91. 3. Frequency of Issue: Biweekly. 3A. No. of Issues Published Annually: 25. 3B. Annual Subscription Price: \$45 USA, \$59 Foreign. 4. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: 120 Bellevue Ave. E., Seattle, WA 98102-5543. 5. Complete Mailing Address of the Headquarters of General Business Offices of the Publisher: 120 Bellevue Ave. E., Seattle, WA 98102-5543. 6. Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor: Publisher—Yasser Seirawan, 120 Bellevue Ave. E., Seattle, WA 98102-5543. Managing Editor—Michael Franett, PO Box 19457, Seattle, WA 98102-1457. 7. Owner: International Chess Enterprises Inc., 5775 Toronto Rd #P4, Vancouver BC Canada V6T 1X4 8. Mortgagees and other Security Holders owning or holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities: None. 10. Extent and Nature of Circulation/Average No. Copies Each Issue during preceding 12 Months/Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: A. Total No. Copies: 5484/5700 B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales: 824/1118 2. Mail Subscription: 3703/3880. C. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 4527/4998. D. Free Distribution by Mail, Carrier or Other Means; Samples, Complimentary and other Free Copies: 167/133. E. Total Distribution: 4694/5131. F. Copies not distributed: 1. Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing: 606/724. 2. Return from News Agents: 184/0. G. Total: 5484/5700. 11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

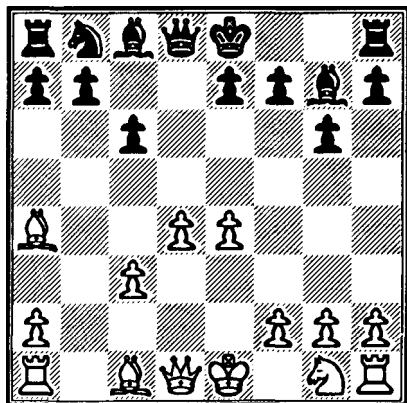
Russell W. Miller, Business Manager.

A New Try Against the Grunfeld

by GM Lubomir Ftacnik

White players trying to refute the Grunfeld Indian complex have met with nothing but frustration down through the years. Nowadays it is not so much a question of refutation as of finding a line that poses problems for Black. After all the tries over the years, the recent popularity of

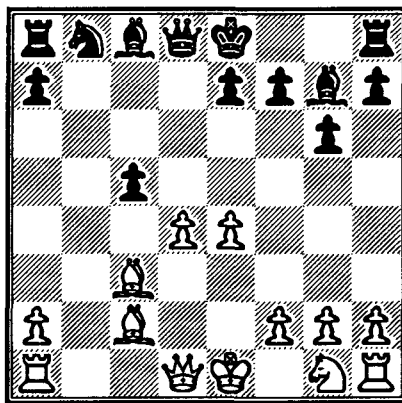
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bb5 + c6 8.Ba



may seem a bit surprising. White avoids the main lines of current theory with a seemingly irrelevant check on move seven, but not even a couple dozen recent games have sufficed to answer the question: What is Black's best response?

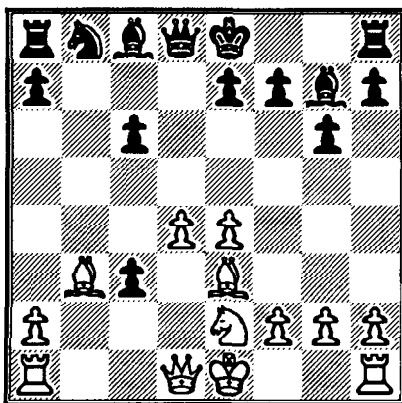
1. Black can try to take advantage of the provocative 7.Bb5 + by immediately attacking White's center with 8...b5. This method has been somewhat discredited, but it may still be viable using a cautious and exact treatment.

1a) The preference between the two retreats after 7.Bb5 + c6 8.Ba4 b5 was decided in praxis. The modest 9.Bc2?! proved to be too mild-mannered, i.e., 9...b4 10.Bb2 bxc3 11.Bxc3 c5!



Black has to be exact. 11...O-O 12.Ne2 Ba6 13.Bd3 Bxd3 14.Qxd3 e5 15.Rd1 exd4 16.Bxd4 Qa5 + 17.Qc3 Qxc3 + 18.Nxc3 left the second player a bit worse in Bukhman-Luecke, Budapest 1989. After 11...c5! 12.Ne2 cxd4 13.Ba4 + Bd7 14.Bxd7 + Nxd7 15.Bxd4 Qa5 + 16.Qd2 Qxd2 + 17.Kxd2 O-O your author had to be content with a completely even position in Ftacnik-Krasenkov, Vienna 1990.

1b1) Much more dangerous for Black is 9.Bb3!? b4 10.Ne2 bxc3 11.Be3

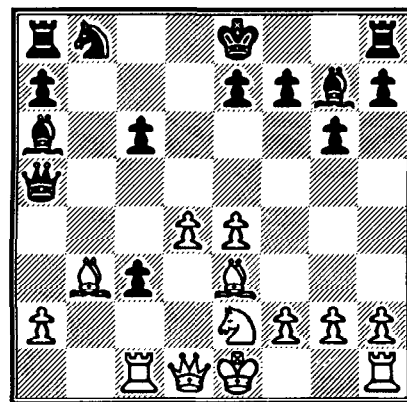


11...O-O 12.Rc1 Nd7 13.e5 c5 14.e6! Now the difference between 9.Bb3!? and 9.Bc2?! becomes clear: 14...fxe6 15.O-O Ba6 16.Bxe6 + Kh8 17.d5 Ne5 18.Rxc3

Bxe2 19.Qxe2 Nf3 + 20.gxf3 Bxc3 21.Bxc5 Qc7 22.Qe3 Bf6 23.Rc1 and White had more than enough for the Exchange in Kiselev-Krasenkov, Moscow ZSKS 1992. Impressive, but not the whole story, since Black would do better postponing castling in favor of the immediate 11...Ba6 12.Rc1. Once again, Black has a choice:

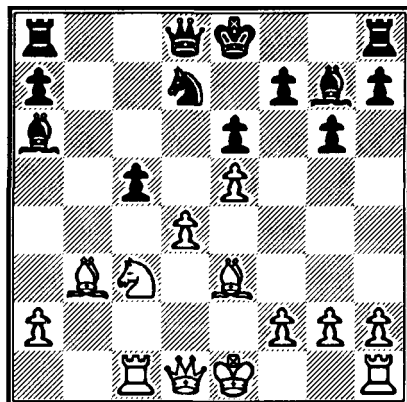
1b2) 12...O-O loses precious time: 13.Rxc3 Qa5 14.Qd2 Rd8 15.Rc2 Qxd2 + 16.Kxd2! Nd7 17.Rxc6 Bb7 18.Rc7 Bxe4 19.f3 Bf5 was the resulting tactical squabble in Dautov-Ftacnik, Munich (op) 1990, and here 20.Nf4! would have been very nasty for Black.

1b3) Less convenient for White is 12...Qa5



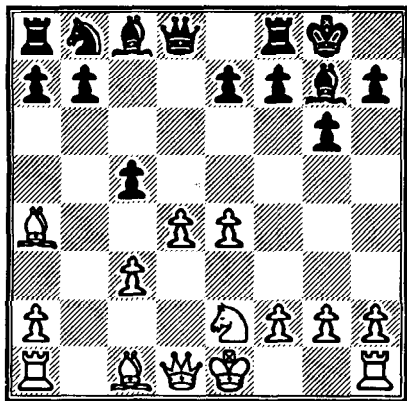
13.Nxc3 Nd7 14.Qd2 O-O 15.Ne2 Qa4 + 16.Kxd2; White's claim to an advantage was rather modest in Schlosser-Zakic, Budapest Cansys 1991.

1b4) Last, but not least, 12...Nd7 13.e5 nicely illustrates the ambitions of the first player. Black tried 1...Nb6 14.Nxc3 O-O 15.Ne4 Nd5 16.Nc5 Nxe3 17.fxe3 with little success in Gleizerov-Jasnikowski, Pardubice (op) 1992. But Black needn't despair, as Krasenkov has demonstrated a very logical way of dealing with the mounting problems: 13...e6 14.Nxc3 c5!

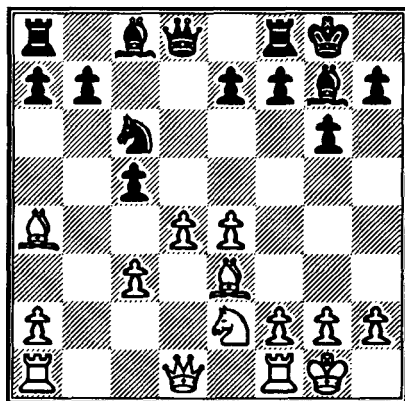


15.f4 cxd4 16.Qxd4 Bb7 17.Kf2 O-O 18.Rhd1 Qh+ 19...g1 R.d8 and suddenly it was White who had to take precautions in Kiselev-Krasenkov, Katowice (op) 1992.

2. The other main idea for Black is 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bb5+ c6 8.Ba4 O-O 9.Ne2 c5!?



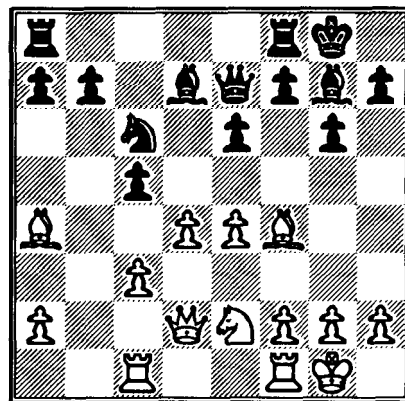
Purists might be horrified by this obvious loss of tempo, but then, what exactly has White gained with the maneuver Bb5-a4? Unfortunately for Black, results have been somewhat in White's favor, since the pressure along the a4-e8 diagonal turns out to be quite unpleasant. 10.O-O Nc6 (the young talent Amura from Argentina was not able to win outright equality with 10...Bd7 11.Rb1 cxd4 12.cxd4 b6 13.Be3 Nc6 14.Bb5 Na5 15.Ba6 Bc8 16.Bd3 Bb7 17.d5 Rc8 18.Qa4 e6 19.Rfd1 exd5 20.Bb5 in Boissonet-Amura, Buenos Aires 1991, but her treatment deserves further tests) 11.Be3.



Here Black has tried two different approaches.

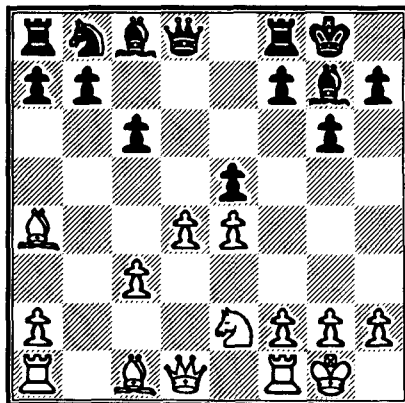
2a) A very important game for this variation continued 11...Na5 12.Rb1 cxd4 13.cxb3 14...5 e6 15.B! Ba6 (the tactics work fine for White after 15...x5 16.Bxa5 bxa5 17.Bc6 Ba6 18.Bxa8 Qxa8 19.exd5 Rd8 20.Re1 Rxd5 21.Qb3, Black's compensation is clearly insufficient) 16.Bb4 exd5 17.exd5 Bc4 (well, the Rook was deprived of the e8-square!) 18.Bxf8 Bxf8 19.Rb2 Qxd5 20.Qxd5 Bxd5 21.Rd1 Bc4 22.Nc1! and White converted his advantage to a win in Dautov-Labunsky, URS 1989.

2b) The new superstar Vladimir Kramnik won a nice game against 11...Qc7 12.Rc1 e6 (White was undeniably better after 12...Rd8 13.Qc2 a6 14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.dxc5 Be6 16.Qa4 Rdb8 17.Rb1 Rb5 18.Nd4 Bxd4 19.cxd4 Rab8 in Bern-Swidler, Gausdal Arnold Cup 1991 but it proved insufficient for the win) 13.Bf4 Qc7 14.Qd2 (a subtle move that is easily better than 14.dxc5 e5 15.Be3 Rd8 16.Qc2 Be6) 14...Bd7.



1...dxc5! e5 1...Bg5 f6 17.B-a3 Be6 18.Bb3 Rad8 (White has won the fight for control of the a2-g8 diagonal. Black couldn't have gone in for 18...Bxb3 19.axb3 Rad8 20.Qa2, since White would get a healthy extra pawn) 19.Bd5! Kh8 (19...f5 20.B-f B-f 21.B-f6 Q-f6 22. 4 fxe4 23.Nc3 clearly favors the attacker) 20.c4 f5 21.exf5 gxf5 22.f4! and White won in 10 more moves (Kramnik-Moutousis, Oakham 1992).

3. Given the experiences in the two lines given above, Black is switching to the logical 9...e5 10.O-O.



CHESS SCENE by David Middleton



A fork in the road and quite a volatile one, since either way White gets a good opportunity to become violent. Black's task is to limit the damage.

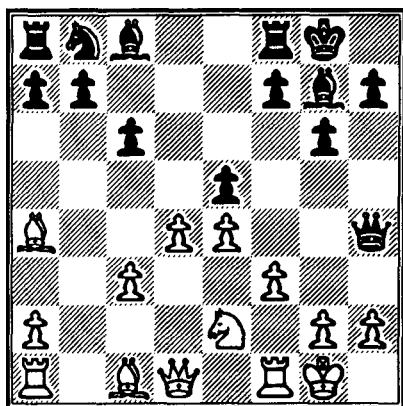
3a) The seemingly aggressive 10...Qh4 hopes to slow down White's initiative by attacking his central pawns. White can choose:

3a1) 11.f4 exd4 12.cxd4 Bg4 13.Be3 Qh5 14.Rf2 c5 (time and piece activity have become the main factors) 15.e5 cxd4 16.Bxd4 Rd8 17.h3 (sadly, White has to use this modest move to solve his obvious problems) 17...Bxe2 18.Rxe2 Rxd4 19.Qxd4 Qxe2 20.Qd8+ Bf8 21.Bb3 Qe3+ 22.Kh1 Qxf4 23.Qc8 a5 24.Qxb7 Ra6 25.Qxb8 Rc6 and the game Savchenko-Odeev, URS 1991, was drawn.

3a2) Similar complications resulted from 11.Ng3 exd4 12.cxd4 c5 13.e5 Rd8 14.f4 Rxd4 15.Qc2 Be6 16.Be3 Rc4 17.Qd1 Bxe5 18.fxe5 Rxa4 19.Nh5! Nc6; and the chances in Glek-Isoev, URS Team (ch) Azov 1991, were equal.

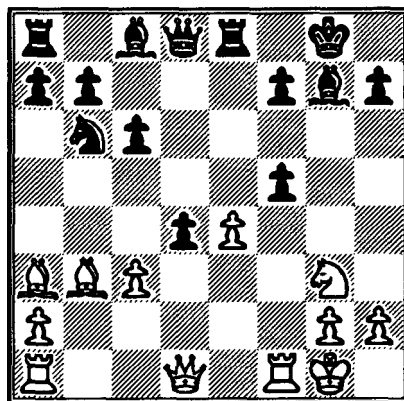
3a3) Surprisingly enough, the quiet 11.f3! may prove to be the most unpleasant for Black.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bb5+ c6 8.Ba4 O-O 9.Ne2 e5 10.O-O Qh4 11.f3



11...Rd8 12.Be3 h6?! (A dubious concession. Better was 12...Be6 13.Bb3, keeping Black's problems at a bearable level.) 13.Qc1 Kh7 14.Bb3 exd4 15.cxd4 Qe7 16.Rb1! and White was clearly better in Rasky-Odeev, Romania 1991.

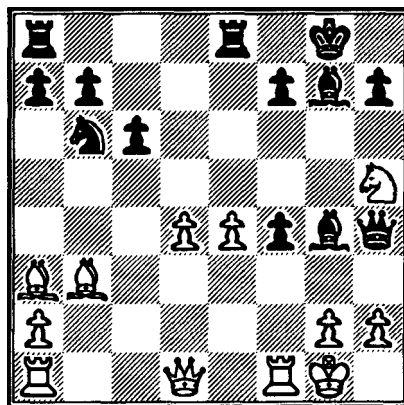
3b) 10...Nd7 is a more conservative choice, but White still generates lots of heat with 11.Ba3 Re8 12.Bb3 Nb6 13.f4 exd4 14.f5 gxf5 15.Ng3.



Direct assault should never be underestimated.

3b1) Black succumbed quickly after the careless 15...dxc3?! 16.Qh5 Nc4 (17.Bxc4 Qd4 17.Rad1 b6 18.Kh1 Qb5 19.Nxf5 Bxf5 20.Rxf5 Ne5 21.Bxf7+ Nxf7 22.Qxf7+ and it was already curtains for Black in Shirov-Smejkal, Bundesliga 1991-92.

3b2) The last word on the subject is 15...Qh4!?, clearly the fruit of home analysis. 16.cxd4 (the position is genuinely unclear after 16.Nxf5 Bxf5 17.Rxf5 Rxe4 18.Rxf7 Kh8) 16...f4 17.Nh5 Bg4

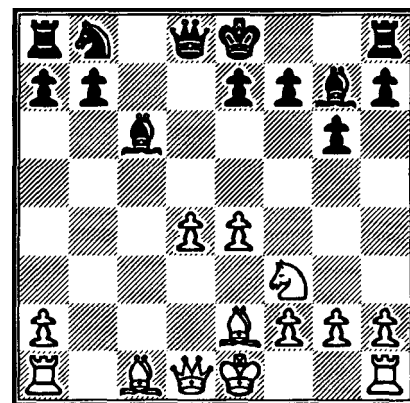


18.Bxf7+! (a necessary trick, as 18.Rxf4 Bxd1 19.Bxf7+ Kh8 20.Rxh4 Bxd4+ wins for Black) 18...Kh8 (quite clearly, 18...Kxf7 19.Rxf4+ Kg8 20.Rxg4 Qxh5 21.Rxg7+ was not possible) 19.Nxg7 Bxd1 20.Nxe8 Bh5 (I believe that Black has to dig deep in this critical position. Very interesting is 20...Be2!?, since White can have problems after 21.Rf2 Rxe8! 22.Bxe8 [but not 22.Rxe2 Qf6! 23.Bxe8 Qxd4+, winning for Black] 22...Qd8 23.Bf7 Qxd4 24.Rb1 Na4 with a plus for Black in a sharp position. The tricky 21.d5 Nc4 22.Bb4 Rxe8 23.Bxe8 Bxf1 24.Rxf1 Qf6 favors Black as well. Maybe I am missing something, but Black may easily find himself on top.) 21.Nd6 Bxf7 22.Nxf7+

Kg8 23.Nd6 Qf6 24.Rad1 and a draw proposal was accepted in the last round money game of a big open in Pribyl-Smejkal, Pardubice (op) 1992. White's compensation is palpable.

What should one make of this quickly developing variation? It is certainly more troubling for Black than a cursory glance would suggest. If anybody wants a simple method of meeting 7.Bb5+, I can tell you a secret. GM Jan Smejkal, the authority on the Grünfeld for the last 25 years, recently suggested that if the cold-blooded

7.Bb5+ Bd7!? 8.Be2 c5 9.Nf3 cxd4 10.cxd4 Bc6



is played in a few games, it may take the sting out of the new line. Well, chess theory marches on...